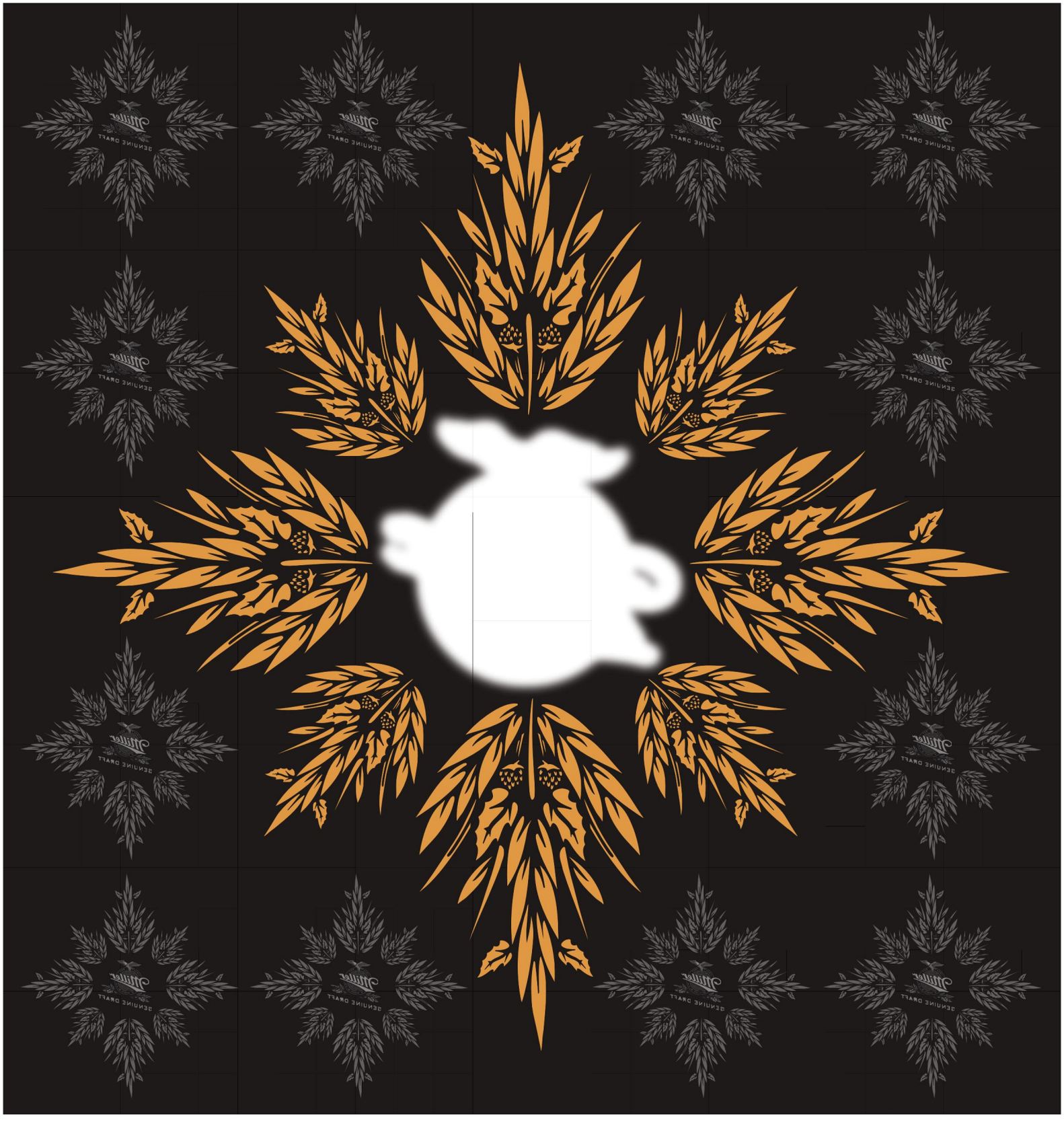

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JAPAN'S YAKUZA JOIN AID EFFORT
{page 22}

MERYL OR MICHELLE?
REEL GUYS' OSCAR PICKS
{page 43}

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Left out in the cold

First United Church says it had to turn away 27 people because of occupancy-bylaw enforcement Reverend warns of potential harm to the homeless

Reverend Ric Matthews is bracing for the worst.

On Wednesday night, the First United Church — a longtime safe haven for homeless people in the Downtown Eastside — had to turn away people seeking shelter from the cold streets because city and fire inspectors began enforcing the building's occupancy limit of 240 people.

"The consequence was that there were at least 27 people who were met and told, face-to-face, 'We know you, we care about you.... Despite the fact you have nowhere else to go, you cannot come into this building,'" Matthews said.

The church was unable to find other accommodations for the stranded, and Matthews worries about the possibility of someone dying on the streets in the middle of winter.

In the midst of the crisis, Mayor Gregor Robertson — who maintains it's not safe for the church to be operating over capacity — is furious that the provincial government won't provide $1.5 million to run the city's emergency 160-bed HEAT shelters. MATT KIELTYKA

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Reverend Ric Matthews speaks outside the First United Church Thursday, a night after fire inspectors enforced a maximum-occupancy bylaw at the church that forced at least 27 homeless people out into the streets.

Friends with benefits or a one-night stand?

Study explores sexual landscape among youth 'Casual sex' doesn't aptly describe range of relationships: Researcher {page 10}

Business

eBay setting up shop for the holidays

Online retailer opening up temporary store in London's Soho district {page 29}

Winter wonderland

Hear the sleigh bells jing-a-ling

Reopening of Robson Square ice rink signals winter fun is here Rentals available on site {page 6}

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Dog charity operator charged with stealing pets

RCMP

▶ Samson

The operators of a not-for-profit dog adoption charity have been charged with theft for allegedly stealing healthy, unattended pets from backyards and adopting them out, for a fee.

Mounties received a tip about a number of animal thefts where the suspects were seen wearing animal welfare uniforms. A Surrey-based pet adoption organization, A Better Life Dog Rescue, and its director soon became subjects of interest.

On Nov. 21, officers watched as two women, both wearing animal welfare uniforms, walked into the yard of a Coquitlam house and allegedly walked away with a bulldog named Samson. They were arrested for the theft of the pet.

Janet Olson, 58, founder and director of A Better Life Dog Rescue and Louise Reid, 59, a co-director of the organization are charged with one count of break and enter and theft under $5,000 in relation to the incident.

RCMP are unsure what the motivation for the alleged thefts could be, but noted that several pets had been adopted out for a fee. ● JEFF HODSON

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Premier Christy Clark serves breakfast to Dr. Peter Centre clients Thursday to mark World AIDS Day.

Getting down to zero

▶ World AIDS Day focuses on zero new HIV infections, discrimination, AIDS-related deaths ▶ Committing money to programs good investment: Premier

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Lyanna Storm contracted HIV through intravenous drug use in 1993. She was 23.

Now she's been on a mission to raise awareness about HIV and Hepatitis C and helping others like herself to realize that these illnesses are manageable.

Storm has been a day health participant at the Dr. Peter Centre since 2003 and she says her experiences at the facility have been nothing but good.

"I love this place," she said. "This is the place I go that I can be me."

Maxine Davis, executive director of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, said the Dr. Peter Centre's seven-day service, which was introduced on World AIDS Day 2010, shows that getting to zero is possible with HIV treatment and prevention.

The facility opened its doors on the weekend last year with the help of an anonymous donor and the provincial government so clients are able to access services seven days a week.

The centre is serving more clients, she added, with an increase of 35 per cent since last year. They have also served more than 50,000 meals and saw an increase of 63 per cent in clients accessing support services from the nursing team.

Premier Christy Clark said putting in money towards HIV treatment and prevention tools is a good investment.

"When you think about the savings for those families whose loved ones are now alive today or who are no longer struggling the way that they did before, it's incalculable," Clark said.

Dr. Julio Montaner, director of the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, said he's proud that Vancouver and B.C. are at the forefront of HIV/AIDS research and innovation, but added there's still work to be done.

"Treatment as prevention is the new way forward," he said, adding it's important to stop the epidemic but also essential for global security.

"It's not just charity, this is a selfish investment," Montaner added. "We need to do it for the good of our children and we can do it."

By the numbers

- Between 1996 and 2009, British Columbians being treated for HIV have gone to 5,413 from 837, while new HIV diagnoses decreased by 52 per cent.

1 news

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▶ Gloria Taylor, who has Lou Gehrig's disease and is fighting for the right to a doctor-assisted suicide, arrives at court in Vancouver Thursday with her sister Patty Ferguson.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

BAN ON ASSISTED SUICIDE MOVES IT TO BACK ALLEY: LAWYER

The lawyer asking the court to overturn the laws against assisted suicide says evidence shows assisted dying is already taking place in Canada just like back-alley abortions once did.

Joe Arvay said in B.C. Supreme Court in Vancouver that studies show where there is an absolute ban on assisted suicide, patient wishes are carried out illegally.

Arvay, the lawyer for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, opened the plaintiff's case saying the risks of physician-assisted dying are far less than what is accepted now in Canada. He said most Canadians die by refusing or withdrawing medical treatment, yet there is no process for overseeing those decisions.

The trial is being accelerated because Gloria Taylor, who has Lou Gehrig's disease, has asked to be allowed to die with the legal help of a doctor.

In her statement of claim to the court, Taylor says she can't understand why her friend with kidney disease can choose to die by refusing dialysis, but under the law, she isn't allowed to make a similar choice.

MATT KIELTYKA

Teacher facing sexual assault charge

A female teacher in Langley faces charges of sexually assaulting an elementary school student. RCMP allege the incident between Deborah Ralph, 57, and the student took place between December 1998 and June 2001. Police say Ralph had been the victim's teacher, but was not at the time of the alleged offences. Ralph was removed from her teaching duties on Nov. 9, the day after her arrest. Police are trying to determine if there are any other victims. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canuck band lends music to a good cause

Rock and reggae band Bedouin Soundclash help raise funds for Broadway Youth Resource Centre for homeless and at-risk youth

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Bedouin Soundclash frontman Jay Malinowski gets a tour of the Broadway Youth Resource Centre on Thursday.

Maddy was in foster care when she was 16. She became homeless with just three months before she was to finish high school. Now she's giving back.

She found refuge at the Broadway Youth Resource Centre and got a fresh start in life.

"The BYRC helped me become who I am," said Maddy, a BYRC alumni and youth leadership graduate. "They helped me gain skills that I need that I didn't know I needed … like how to make an efficient grocery shopping list on a proper budget."

"I intend to help as many youth as I can to find housing and help mothers keep their kids because I now run a parenting program," she added.

Rock and reggae sensations Bedouin Soundclash made a special visit to the BYRC to see how the centre supports at-risk and homeless youth as part of the Virgin Mobile's Re*Generation movement in Vancouver. The band toured the space and gave a brief performance.

The Re*Generation movement aims to provide the services, programs and opportunities for 65,000 youth in Canada who are homeless or at risk of being thrown on the street.

Vancouver-raised frontman Jay Malinowski said the band is proud to lend its support and music for a great cause.

"Walking around and seeing all the artwork at the centre is so positive," he said. "I know for me, personally, that's been one way of getting through hard times."

Maddy said having the band visit the centre is an important sign of support.

"Knowing that even people that high in society agree with us definitely makes a big statement in our centre and makes us feel a little bit better that somebody's also on our team," she said. "If you looked at all their faces and eyes, they're all just awestruck that somebody came here and took the time to talk to them."

Bedouin Soundclash performed at a benefit concert Thursday night, with proceeds going to the BYRC, which provides a wide range of services to homeless and at-risk youth between the ages of 12 and 24.

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Grab your skates and have fun downtown

- Families gear up for a great time as winter activities begin around city
- Outdoor ice rink opens at Robson Square and admission is free

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Siblings Emily, 8, and Carson Hillmer, 10, lap the ice rink at Robson Square during its re-opening on Thursday afternoon.

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

You can almost hear the sleigh bells.

With December upon us, British Columbians are beginning to get in the cool, festive mood of the holidays and are gearing up for a winter of fun.

The re-opening of the outdoor ice rink at Robson Square Thursday was as clear a signal as any.

Just ask Victoria's Hillmer family, early birds at the ice rink taking in a week-long mainland vacation.

"I'm lucky," said Emily, 8, before taking a lap of the rink. "I just love coming outside and that you can just come and skate."

Ten-year-old brother Carson agreed.

"I like it, it's fun ... though it is cold out," he said.

> **"I love it, it's awesome [to have outdoor skating downtown]."**
> LINDA HILLMER, MOTHER-OF-TWO

Despite the chill, both children weren't taking the crisp air and outdoor skating for granted.

"Well, it is winter," said Emily with a smile.

"I did it when I was a kid and we were here just before the Olympics," said mother Linda.

"I love it, it's awesome [to have outdoor skating downtown]."

The rink is open until the end of February from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, and until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Admission is free, skate and helmet rentals are available on site.

Drunks who disrupted flight hit with hefty fine

Two men are facing a big fine after their drunken rowdiness forced an Air Canada flight from Toronto to Beijing to be diverted to Vancouver on Monday.

George Campbell, 45, of Conestogo, Ont., and Paul Alexander Wilson, 38, of Kitchener, Ont., have been ordered to pay restitution of $71,757 after pleading guilty to mischief. They were also given suspended sentences and probation for a year.

Another passenger aboard the plane says Campbell and Wilson were fighting with the flight attendants and it took the entire crew to subdue the men, who were eventually handcuffed to seats on the plane.

The passenger accused Air Canada of being irresponsible, claiming the airline staff either allowed drunk passengers on the plane or over served them once they were aboard.

After the jet diverted to Vancouver, the other passengers were put up in hotels overnight and the flight resumed the next day, 18 hours behind schedule. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man charged after stabbing pet dog, cats

A Richmond man has been charged with nine counts of animal cruelty after allegedly stabbing the dog and two cats he co-owned with his ex-wife to death and then stuffing their bodies in his freezer.

In a release Thursday, the B.C. SPCA called the incident one of the most disturbing cases in recent memory.

In October, the man allegedly repeatedly stabbed to death a 30-pound boxer named Maza and two cats, Pepper and Liston, before placing them in his freezer.

"It is truly horrible to think of the terror and pain that these animals suffered," said Lorie Chortyk, spokeswoman for the B.C. SPCA.

The man refused to speak with B.C. SPCA officers, but left the animals bodies in a bin outside his house, Chortyk said.

"We can't bring the animals back, but we can ensure that we do everything in our power to seek justice for them and ensure that this doesn't happen again."

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Kendall Goheen of Richmond. METRO

NORTHERN GATEWAY

First Nations close borders to pipeline

B.C. native leaders say they've virtually closed the province's borders to the planned Northern Gateway oil pipeline.

More than 61 B.C. First Nations have now signed a declaration aimed at opposing any pipelines across their territories, and they say the united front will prevent Enbridge from building a line from the Alberta tar sands to the B.C. coast.

Chief Jackie Thomas of the Saik'uz First Nation says aboriginals from every corner of B.C. are saying no to tar sands pipelines and tankers in their territories and will defend their decision using all means possible.

Enbridge denies First Nations opposition to Gateway is unanimous and repeated its offer to give aboriginals an economic stake in the project that would be worth about $1 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pickton probe head defends police witness

The head of the missing women inquiry in Vancouver has told lawyers to show some respect for a key police witness.

Wally Oppal came to the defence of deputy Vancouver police chief Doug LePard after a lawyer representing First Nations interests accused LePard of lying under oath.

Lawyer Darrell Roberts said LePard has suggested it was the RCMP's fault that serial killer Robert Pickton wasn't caught sooner, but Oppal says there's no evidence LePard lied. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigators head to plane crash scene

Transportation Safety Board investigators were on their way to the scene of a fatal plane crash in northeastern B.C. on Thursday.

TSB official Chris Krepski says the wreckage of the Cessna 185 will be documented and surveyed — and any suspect pieces will be sent to the lab for a closer look.

The small plane went down early Wednesday evening just east of Fort St. John, killing the unidentified lone pilot aboard. The plane was on a flight from Peace River, Alberta to Fort St. John. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Appeal being considered in suit against tougher DUI laws: Lawyer

Says ruling is a bit of a mixed bag Government willing to make changes to legislation as soon as possible

A lawyer for a group of up to 80 people ensnared in British Columbia's tough drunk driving laws says his clients are considering an appeal.

Jeremy Carr says he is pleased a B.C. Supreme Court justice has ruled the tough penalties and costs imposed roadside on drivers who blow over the legal blood-alcohol limit are unconstitutional.

But he says he is disappointed that the judge also found lighter penalties for people who blow between .05 and .08 in a roadside test are valid.

"On one hand, I'm very happy with it," said Carr, a Victoria lawyer who specializes in drunk driving cases.

"But on the other hand, we're very disappointed. We believe very strongly we had an argument in regards to other issues that the court felt wasn't strong enough."

Justice Jon Sigurdson ruled unconstitutional Wednesday the part of the law that gave police the authority to issue driving suspensions and have their vehicles impounded if a roadside screening test showed they were over the legal driving limit of .08.

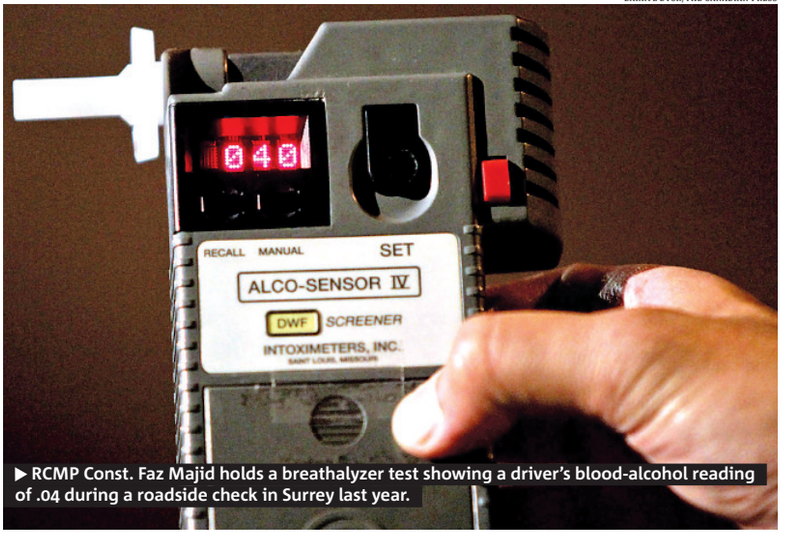
Under the new laws, the penalties were handed out without charges ever being laid. But Sigurdson also found motorists had no recourse to challenge the readings, which were not recorded anywhere.

But Sigurdson concluded the similar, but lighter penalties imposed on drivers who blew between .05 and .08 were justified. And he rejected the argument that the province had no jurisdiction to make the laws, that they trod on federal turf.

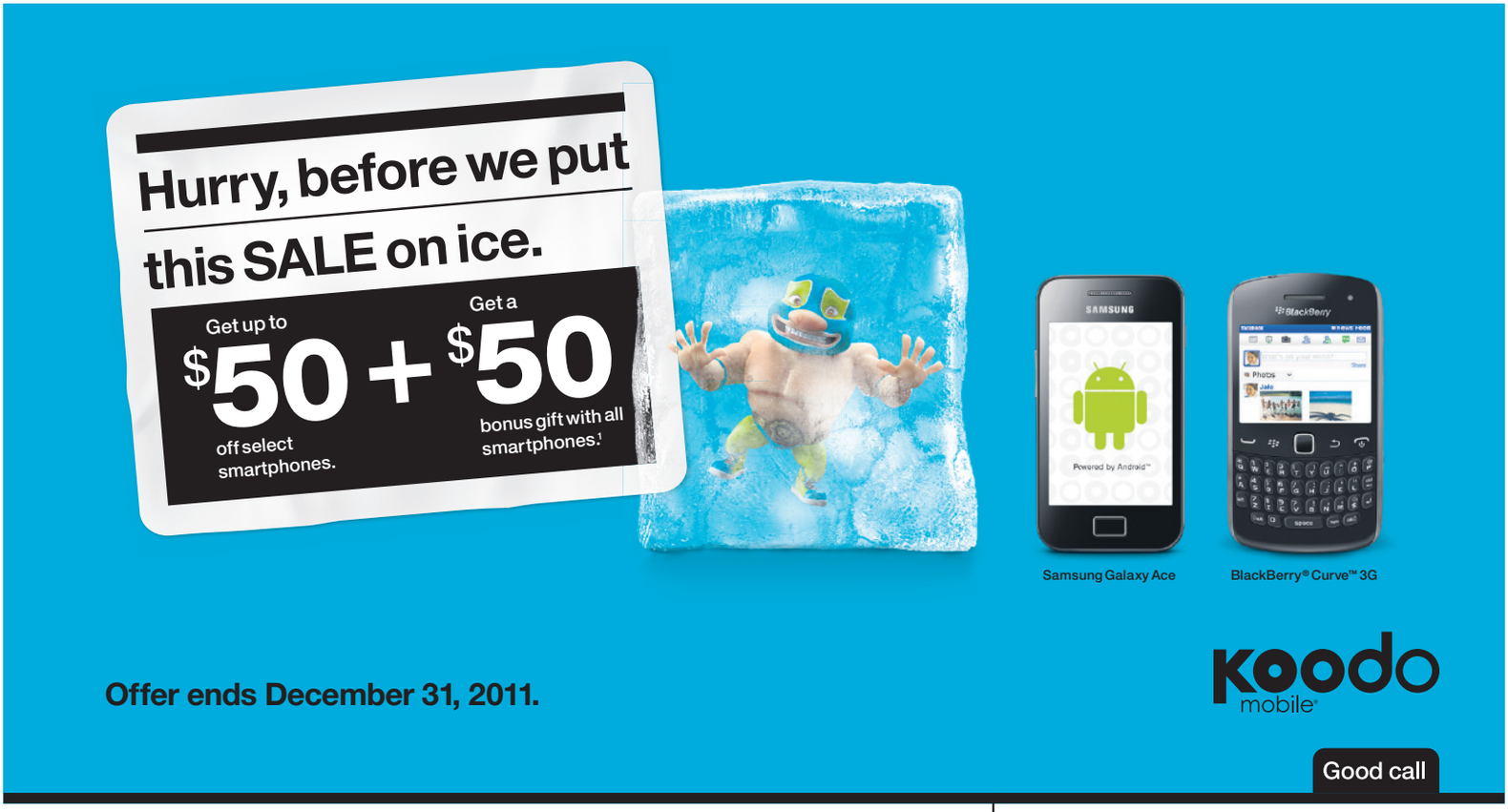
Solicitor General Shirley Bond said her government is pleased with the ruling and rather than appealing, she said she will act as soon as possible to make changes to ensure the penalties conform to the constitution.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ RCMP Const. Faz Majid holds a breathalyzer test showing a driver's blood-alcohol reading of .04 during a roadside check in Surrey last year.



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Crime? It doesn't panic us

StatsCan study finds Canadians feel safe Westerners more wary

Statistics Canada says the vast majority of Canadians feel they're safe from crime.

The agency has released a study of Canadians aged 15 and older that says 93 per cent of those surveyed said they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime.

The 2009 study produced results similar to those of the last survey done in 2004 — before the Conservatives took power and began their tough-on-crime campaign.

Crime rates overall have been falling for a decade.

Youth crime is one of the few areas that has risen, yet the study says slightly more younger Canadians were satisfied with their personal safety from crime than older Canadians — 94 per cent of those aged 15-24 compared to 90 per cent aged 65 years and older.

About 83 per cent of respondents said they were not worried when home alone at night, while 90 per cent who walked alone in their neighbourhoods at night said they felt safe doing so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety zones

- The study indicates those living in Eastern Canada, where crime rates are generally lower, were more satisfied with their personal safety than Westerners, who form the base of Tory support.

Aid for AIDS. It's going swimmingly

▶ Dalhousie students Leanna Winberg — yes, that's her on the left — and Alex McPhedran fight the chills with a joke after their polar bear swim at Chocolate Lake in Halifax on Thursday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

How to grin and polar-bear it

Several students from Dalhousie University left their winter woolies behind on Thursday — for a polar bear swim. It was all for a good cause. They plunged into some chilly water to mark World AIDS Day and to publicize the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Dare campaign, which aims to raise money and awareness for AIDS research and prevention in Africa.

Sex for young adults: It's a jungle out there

Modern life is complicated, and the sexual landscape for young adults is no exception.

That's the discovery of researchers at the University of Ottawa.

Friends with benefits, booty calls, hookups and one-night stands — these are just a few of the arrangements outlined in a new study exploring the sexual landscape among Canadians within the 18-24 age group.

And it found each relationship has specific ground rules when it comes to behaviour, communication, monogamy and secrecy.

The study, released Thursday, was published in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality.

"When we talk about casual sex, people use it as a blanket term to cover everything," said lead author Jocelyn Wentland, a PhD student in experimental psychology.

"But as this research shows, there's a lot going on in between."

And much of it is nothing like the one-night stand of the past, where people had a sexual encounter and never saw each other again, she added.

Friends with benefits, for example, refers to sex within the context of an ongoing friendship.

"Booty calls," she explained are for the sole purpose of sexual activity.

Friends have more at stake, so the terms and conditions, as well as the emotional terrain, are different.

Earlier studies have shown one-third to two-thirds of college and university students have engaged in the two types of relationships.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Not too 'casual'

- The research for the University of Ottawa study was based on a focus group of extensive interviews with 23 young adults, including sex educators.
- Lead author Jocelyn Wentland says the term "casual sex" oversimplifies the range of relationships going on today.
- Understanding the distinctions is important for the men and women participating in them.

MacKay's flight has Commons in a flap

Opposition MPs are accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of misleading the Commons over his use of a military helicopter to fly him out of a Newfoundland fishing lodge.

New reports indicate the pickup was orchestrated specifically to extract the minister from his fishing trip, "under the guise" of a training exercise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mighty Mo's raise $36M

Movember, the global charity that encourages growing a moustache to raise funds for prostate cancer, says 246,060 Canadians — including MP Justin Trudeau — raised $36.6 million this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Trudeau's Mo

Ecstasy helped kill teen, police suspect

Police suspect an ecstasy-pill overdose contributed to the death of teenager following a weekend party in Calgary.

The 16-year-old boy and eight other teens were taken to hospital Saturday afternoon after suffering an adverse reaction to the drug.

The other teens were treated and released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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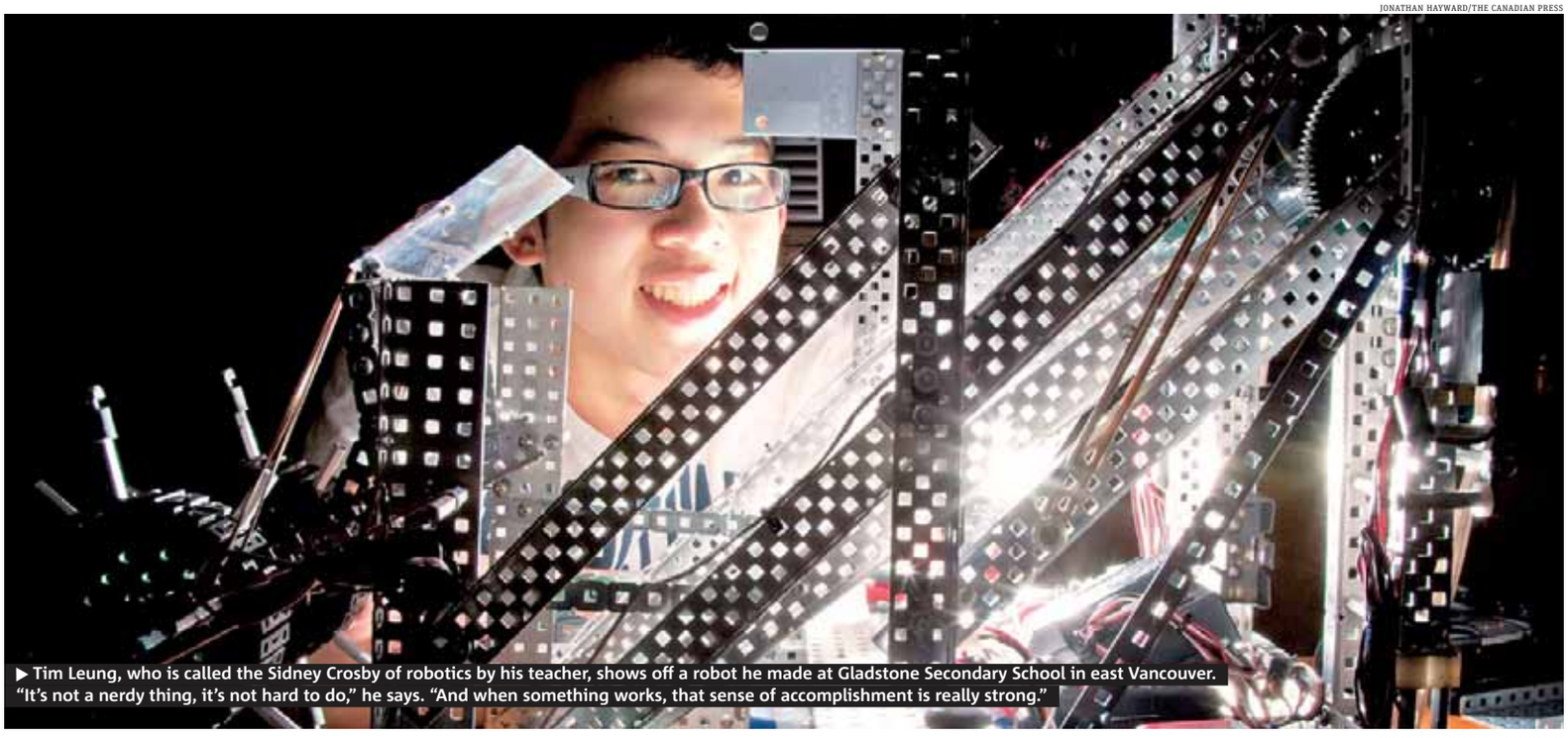

▶ Tim Leung, who is called the Sidney Crosby of robotics by his teacher, shows off a robot he made at Gladstone Secondary School in east Vancouver. "It's not a nerdy thing, it's not hard to do," he says. "And when something works, that sense of accomplishment is really strong."

Robots take students from geek to sleek

Vancouver high school students build sci-tech futures — and a little self-confidence — building robots

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ "Suddenly now I'm no longer shy, I'm able to work with all these people, talk to new people, talk to the judges," Tim Leung says, adding he encourages kids of any age to get involved in robotics.

In a sketchy neighbourhood in east Vancouver, Gladstone Secondary School has built a rather tough reputation.

A stroll down a long corridor reveals room V105, where the Harley-Davidson-riding shop teacher runs what he dubs the "robo dojo."

There, students on the school's 20 robotics teams engineer championship-winning machines.

"I have the Sidney Crosby of robotics. I also get some of those 'really cool kids' who say they're going to the washroom when they're really going for a smoke break," Todd Ablett says of the group gearing up for the B.C. season opener on Dec. 9.

"Sometimes they're surprised at their own abilities."

In an era when teens live and breathe smartphones, tablets and i-gadgets, robotics is a rapidly growing extracurricular activity that is bridging the athlete-versus-braniac divide.

"You might never see them together in other real-life situations, but in robotics it brings all these people together," Grade 10 student Timothy Leung says.

Last year, Leung,15, competed in one of four teams among 400 at the VEX Robotics World Championships, held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla. The school placed second in the programming challenge, its fourth year qualifying for the finals.

"It's a tough school," says Lance Balcom, president of the Pacific Youth Robotics Society, adding the program gets by on meagre funding. "Robotics has become a rallying point for the whole school."

At this year's challenge, robots just larger than milk crates must dunk more balls and barrels into goals than their opponents.

Past events have filled a giant stadium with screaming fans who cheer on the teams and their robots as if it were a varsity sports event.

Robotics may be front-and-centre, but teachers says it's meant to be the hook that gets teens inspired to make creative and innovative career choices.

"We want them to think it's cool to invent a new heart pump. We want to get kids involved because that stuff is cool and that stuff also helps humanity," says Mark Breadner, a Toronto-based educator who teaches robotics in that city. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"My first year, I walked around and people were like, 'What's robotics?' Now, everyone is talking about it: 'Oh, those guys are the ones that built the robot, oh!'"
KARSIN LAM, A MENTOR AT THIS YEAR'S FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION IN TORONTO

Robots rock

- **VEX,** the robotics design system used by participating high schools in B.C., hosts the top competition in the Pacific Northwest.
- **Nine teams** used the platform when it took hold in the province five years ago, and that number has grown to at least 66 this school year.

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MARK BOSTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An Occupy L.A. protester holds a sign at L.A. city hall late Tuesday night.

MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Workers clean the remnants of the Occupy Philadelphia encampment.

MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A front-end loader scoops up some remnants of the Occupy Philadelphia encampment at city hall Wednesday in Philadelphia.

MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pedestrians wait to cross a street as a front-end loader scoops up some remnants of the Occupy Philadelphia encampment at city hall.

As tent cities fade, protesters debate solutions

A growing number of protesters are pushing to put a clear message ahead of the movement

For more than two months, they were open-air communes where people came to rebuild society and start a nationwide discussion on how to close the wide gap between the rich and the poor.

But as Occupy Wall Street tent cities fade away, a growing number of protesters are pushing to put a clear message.

Alan Collinge has his list ready: return bankruptcy protection to student loans. Bring back regulations that were removed from the Glass-Steagall Act. End corporate personhood.

"They should come up with a short-term list of no brainer agenda items," said Collinge, wearing a huge sign in the rain at New York's Zuccotti Park calling for student-loan reforms.

More than a dozen other protesters interviewed by The Associated Press also came up with a wish list of specifics to address what they say is corporate greed and economic inequality.

"Our best hope is inspiring other people to take action to bring economic justice."

BILL DOBBS, PRESS LIAISON FOR OCCUPY WALL STREET IN NEW YORK

The list of demands ranged from the simple (get corporate money out of politics) to the ethereal (make sure Washington politicians act with a moral conscience).

Asking Occupy protesters what, exactly, they would do to reform government and the financial system is a loaded question and a source of internal conflict. Collinge, 41, of Tacoma, Wash., said he has unsuccessfully lobbied Occupy's general assembly meetings in New York to develop a strong platform, but has been rebuffed.

"A lot of people, they think that this should be sort of a catchall" for every issue, he said, the goal being to expose the economic problems in the country, not solve them.

Other cities' movements have held meetings of committees with titles like "cohesive messaging" to discuss strategy, but haven't agreed on listing specifics as a movement.

The greater purpose isn't to influence the government or the financial system through classic demands, but to foster broad cultural changes that will gradually empower people to stop depending on big corporations and Wall Street money.

"All the energy has gone into an outcry over economic conditions, with the hope that others will join us and pick up issues they care about," says Bill Dobbs, press liaison for Occupy Wall Street in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evicted

Prominent occupy sites in several cities across the country have been shut down by police.

Occupy Edmonton

- Occupy protesters whose camp was dismantled in downtown Edmonton last week say they will engage in "flash occupations."
- They say the gatherings will last anywhere from 10 minutes to 24 hours.
- Protesters say the mini occupations are intended to highlight issues of injustice.

Occupy Montreal

- First, they got the boot from a square dedicated to Queen Victoria. Now they're getting evicted from a spot that will pay tribute to the late writer Mordecai Richler.
- This latest eviction is being prompted by renovations that have begun at their latest rallying point — a gazebo dedicated to Richler.

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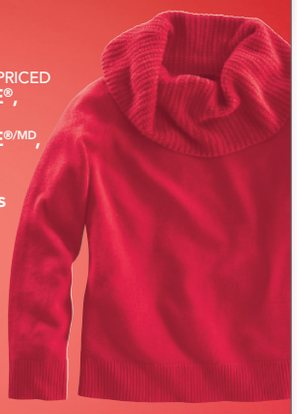

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DRUG MULES

Narco submarines are an innovative weapon for smugglers in Colombia's war on drugs ◐ Metro reports on the murky business of undersea narcotics

PAOLA ROJAS CAMACHO
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEW IN COLOMBIA

Fibreglass and planks of wood — that's the stuff some of Colombia's notorious drug cartels use to build their latest "mules" to transport their merchandise near and far.

Narco submarines are the latest proof of the seemingly limitless guile and craftiness at the disposal of drug-traffickers.

Ever since a narco sub was first seized on Providencia Island in the Caribbean in 1993, authorities across Latin America have managed to capture 71 of these vessels. The most recent offensive came at the beginning of September.

In Operation Aguas Profundas (Deep Waters), U.S. and Colombian agents managed to immobilize submarines, which were used to transport up to 10 tonnes of cocaine to the United States, resulting in nineteen arrests.

But for as little as $500,000 US and made in fewer than 90 days, a drug smuggler can have his own self-propelled semisubmersible vessel, up to 25 metres in length — with a payload capacity of 12 tonnes of cocaine.

What's more, drug barons enjoy fertile ground thanks to the Andean nation's unique geography.

"They (drug cartels) benefit from low tide to build them, and when the water level rises it draws them to offshore, and there is when the trip begins," Admiral Hernando Wills, chief commander of Colombia's Pacific Navy, told Metro.

Wills is responsible for monitoring and protecting the 1,300-km-long stretch of Colombian Pacific coastline from drug-traffickers.

"Colombia's Pacific coastline is full of mangroves, creeks and rivers, an area conducive to building submarines," Wills added.

Authorities are fully aware that drug traffickers are keeping up with state-of-the-art expertise and technology complexity in making their vessels. Last February, anti-drug officials

Construction.

Offshore: These vessels are built in mangroves and taken to the Pacific shoreline when the tide is high so they can be dragged out onto high water to start their journey to Central America or the United States.

Trip.

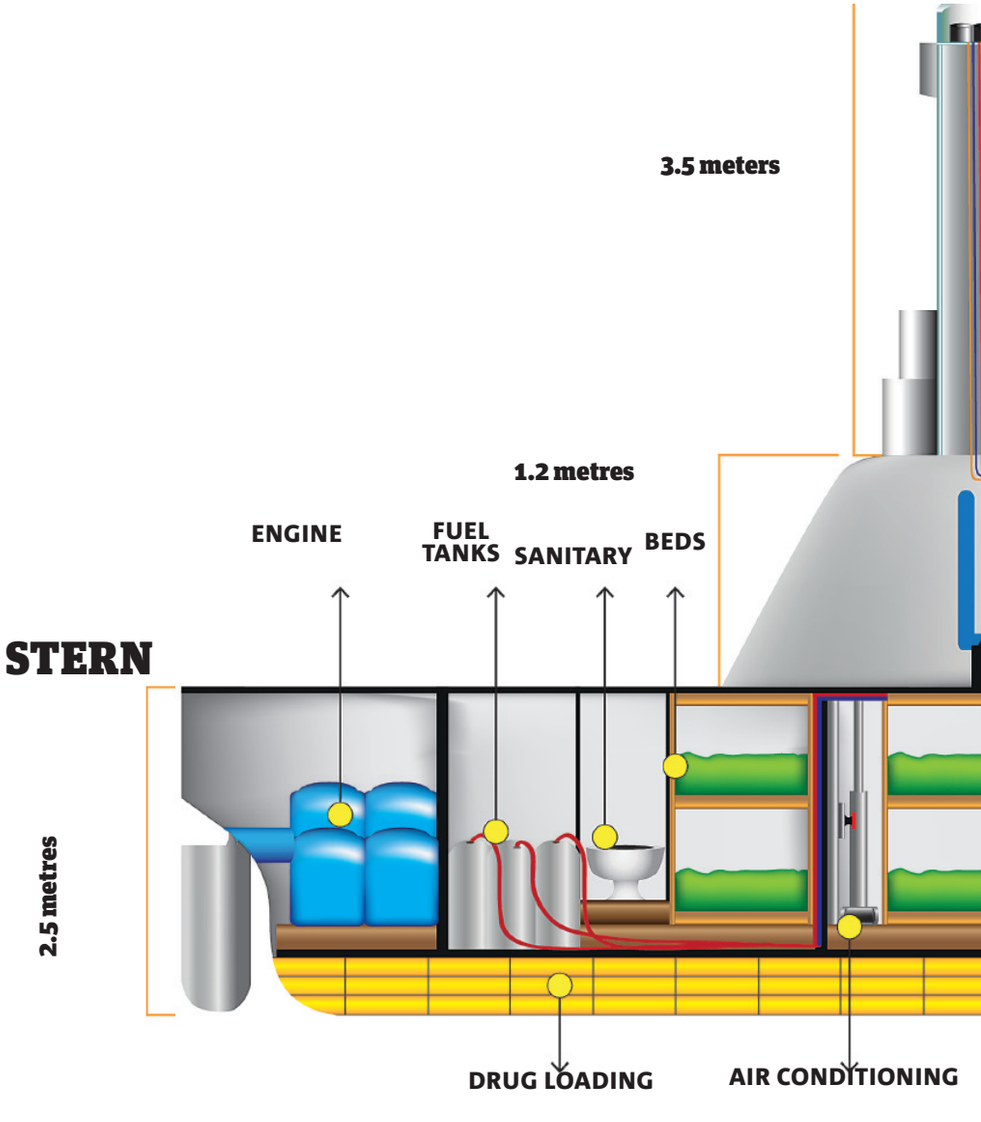
War: Mutiny between crew members on these vessels has been reported. According to official sources, these conflicts may result in casualties.

Snorkel.

Sophistication: Each vessel is equipped with two video cameras, one of them for use during the day and the other one record at night.

Protected.

Tranquility: Sections of these vessels are built with stainless steel, providing good protection and allowing them to submerge to depths of over 10 metres.



OF THE OCEAN

"Colombia's shores are full of creeks and mangroves, conducive to building subs"
HERNANDO WILLS, COLOMBIAN NAVY

discovered the first domestic fully submersible trafficking vessel capable of carrying seven tonnes of cocaine; it had a capacity to navigate up to ten metres deep in water, leaving just 50 cm of a periscope above the surface.

With narco subs carrying nearly 30 per cent of Colombia's total cocaine exports, patrolling the coastline for mules is a No. 1 priority for officials. "Smugglers are rearranging their ways of trafficking, but we do not fall behind and we are working hard to disrupt the goals of these groups," Wills said. There are 8,000 navy men responsible for guarding the Andean nation's Pacific coast.

Wills is adamant that narco-sub smugglers will think twice before they embark on their voyage. "These people risk everything for nothing. Those caught can have penalties up to 14 years of imprisonment," says Wills, adding that before 2009, if people were found, they could declare themselves as shipwrecked and even receive special treatment by the authorities.

The 'narco sub'

Authorities have increased their surveillance system in order to prevent these vessels disembarking into the water.

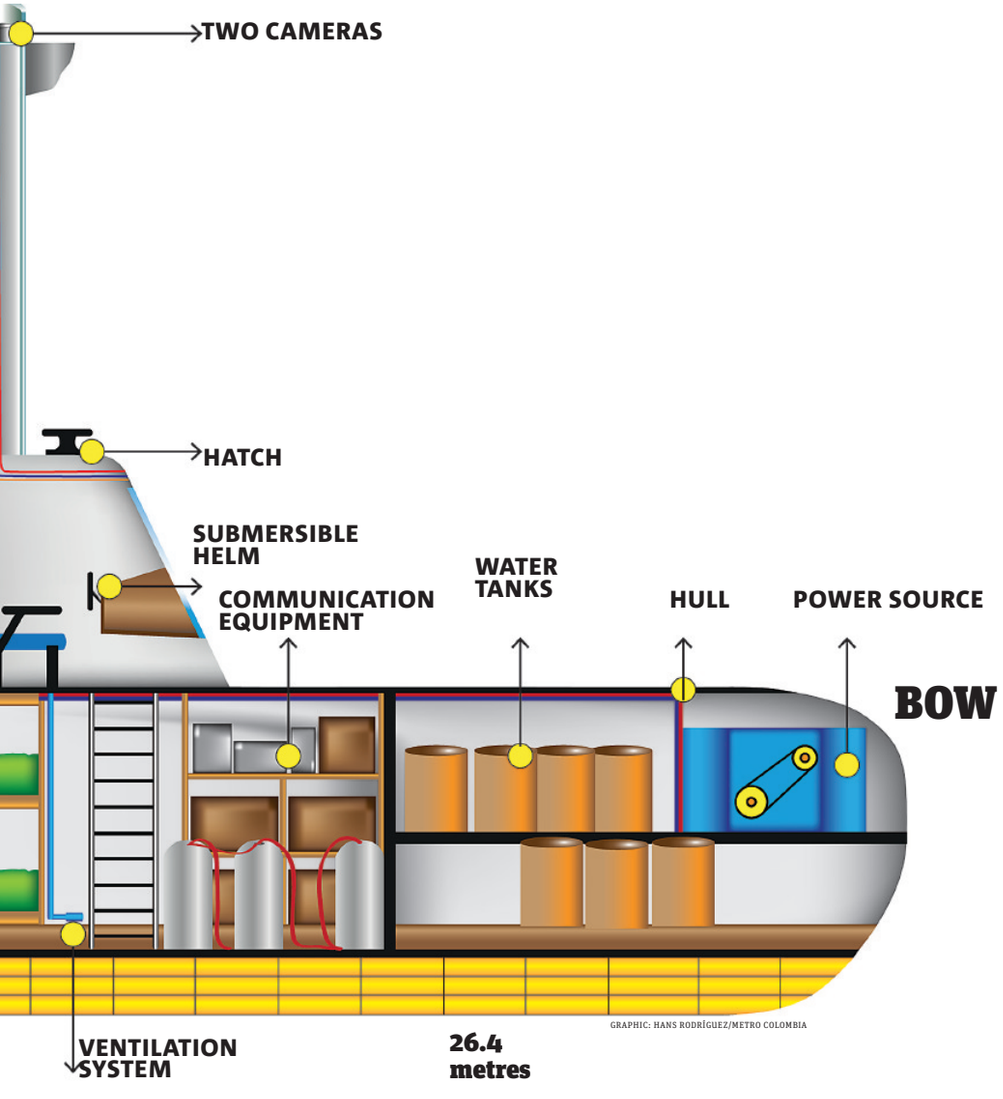
On Feb. 13, 2011, a submarine capable of carrying up to seven tonnes of cocaine was seized. The vessel has an advanced technology never seen in the country.

The technology allowed the vessel to navigate completely under the sea surface, making it virtually undetectable. This is the main difference between new and previously seized subs. POALA ROJAS CAMACHO

Submersible

Characteristics of the state-of-the-art model found by Colombian authorities:

- **Effective.** This has a similar speed to a seven-knot fishing boat.
- **Crew.** Like most semi-submersibles, it has room for four members and bunk beds to provide accommodation.



GRAPHIC: HANS RODRÍGUEZ/METRO COLOMBIA

Narco subs: a timeline

1 **Laura, the first narco sub.** On May 22, 1993, on Providencia Island, Colombian authorities found the first semi-submersible used for drug trafficking. Laura was just over six metres long, built of aluminum and carried three people onboard. Courtesy of Naval Force

2 **In stowage: The vessel was under construction for several months.** On Sept. 11, 2000, Colombia's National Police seized a vessel that was under construction for one year. The mechanisms of the vessels were developed with Russian technology. Other components of the vessel were European in origin. Courtesy of Naval Force.

3 **In the Pacific: A change of Strategy.** After Colombian authorities had seized vessels in the Caribbean, on March 24, 2005, the first narco sub of the Pacific was captured. It was 70 per cent complete and had an expected capacity of four tonnes.

4 **Better design: Changing the traditional model.** On July 18, 2007, in the North Pacific, close to Buenaventura, a semi-submersible was seized carrying a crew composed of four members, even though it did not contain narcotics inside. This ship represented an improvement in form and design

DAVID JENKINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ A northern landscape.

PETER EWINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ Aerial view of glaciers and lake on Baffin Island, Nunavut.

THINGS HEATING UP

Scientist not worried about development but says we're not very good at planning smartly

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A new report issued Wednesday states Canada's Arctic is shifting to a new permanent state — one that is warmer, has less summer sea ice and a changed ocean chemistry.

The Arctic Report Card, prepared by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office (NOAA), tracks the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, biology, ocean, land and Greenland. This year, new sections were added, including greenhouse gases, ozone and UV radiation, ocean acidification and lake ice.

Pete Ewins, director of species conservation at World Wildlife Fund Canada, said the report helps show the continuing trend of extremes that Canada's Arctic is facing.

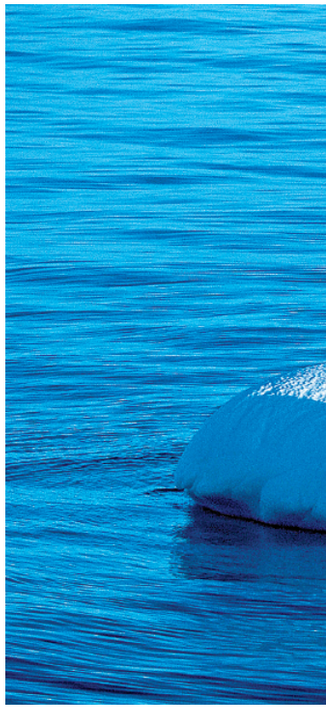
"There isn't a lot of will from our political leaders to change. Our grandchildren are going to say, 'Why didn't they make the change towards renewable energy sooner?'"
PETE EWINS, WWF SCIENTIST

"You don't take one year and use that as a basis (for not changing behaviour)," said Ewins. "It's all about rates of change, and what the (annual report card) shows us is a very scientific basis that shows the rates of change are speeding towards greater uncertainty and greater risks.

"With a greener and warmer Arctic, more development (in Northern Canada) is likely," said Monica Medina, NOAA principal deputy undersecretary. "Reports like this one help us to prepare for increasing demands on Arctic resources."

Ewins said that he isn't worried about the potential for developing Canada's Arctic, only that it's done smartly.

The report can be viewed online at noaa.gov.



METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING SMIRNOFF

ENTERTAINING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

NOW THAT THE COUNTDOWN TO THE FESTIVE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY ON, IT'S TIME TO START MAKING YOUR PARTY-PLANNING LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Here are some tips for stress-free holiday entertaining:

SEND INVITATIONS EARLY

There are lots of parties in December, so send your invitations a few weeks before the date so people can fit it into their schedule.

SET A GAME TIME

In the invitation, state a time parameter. Don't say: "Come by anytime after 7 p.m." if you don't want guests to linger past midnight. Instead, be specific: "Join us for wine and cheese from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m."

PLAN YOUR PANTRY

Try to always have a few culinary staples on hand in case people drop in unexpectedly. These can include antipasto, crudités, hummus and other dips, gourmet crackers, a choice of cheeses, savoury jam and a variety of cookies.

BUILD A COCKTAIL BAR

Early in December, buy a collection of spirits such as vodka, gin and white and dark rum so you'll have basic cocktail ingredients at the ready before party time.

DECIDE ON DECOR

In the days leading up to the party, try different holiday decor themes and colours until you find your favourite. You don't have to stick to traditional green, red, silver and gold; any colour combination goes as long as it's consistent.

HOLIDAY CHEER

HOLIDAY SEABREEZE

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No.21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz grapefruit juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your rock glass with cubed ice and pour in the cranberry juice. Shake the Smirnoff® and grapefruit juice together, then strain and float on top of the cranberry. Add the lime wedge and enjoy.

MADRAS

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz orange juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your highball glass with cubed ice and pour in the Smirnoff® and the cranberry and orange juices. Stir together. Add your lime wedge and enjoy.

LONG COSMO

1 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
0.5 oz TripleSec
3 oz cranberry juice
2 lime wedges

Fill your martini shaker with ice and pour in all ingredients. Mix, then strain. Squeeze in the lime wedges, stir and enjoy.

IN CANADA'S ARCTIC REGION

PAUL NICKLEN/WWF-CANADA

▶ A polar bear and her cub rest on an iceberg in the Arctic Ocean.

Polar bears in danger, whales to benefit

Canada's Arctic will see significant changes as temperatures continue to rise.

The summer sea ice will continue to shrink, and according to the report, the minimum Arctic sea-ice area recorded in September of 2011 was the second-lowest since 1979.

The Arctic will also get greener. The report states Arctic-tundra vegetation continues to increase and is associated with higher air temperatures over most of Canada's Arctic land mass.

The warming of the Arctic threatens polar bear and walrus populations, but also opens feeding areas for whales.

1.5 C Average annual near-surface air temperatures over the Arctic Ocean were 1.5 C greater in 2011 than over the past 30 years.

The retreating ice means the ocean can absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The report states the acidification of the ocean currently appears to be stable. ELISHA DACEY

Watch NOAA's video report at metronews.ca.

Fighting. AIDS

▶ U.S. President Barack Obama makes remarks on World AIDS Day, Thursday, at George Washington University in Washington.

EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$50M boost for HIV treatment

President Barack Obama set an ambitious goal Thursday for significantly increasing access to life-saving AIDS drugs for people in the U.S. and around the world. Obama announced plans to boost spending on HIV treatment in the U.S. by $50 million.

Alabama cops get special training

Thousands of officers to learn how to enforce new legislation that cracks down on illegal immigrants

Alabama is requiring special training for its new immigration law for more than 16,000 law officers – every sworn officer in the state – after confusion and misgivings from some police about how to enforce the new crackdown.

Officials hope the unusual move will alleviate uncertainty about the law on the front lines of law enforcement.

Police chiefs, prosecutors and judges have said that the lengthy law's complicated provisions were hard to understand, and federal court rulings that blocked some sections while letting others take effect only made life tougher for officers on the street. Some departments have relied on little more than news reports for information about the law, officials say.

Alan Benefield, head of the Alabama Police Officers' Standards and Training Commission, said Thursday the panel decided last month to take the unusual step of requiring four hours of training for every sworn officer in the state because of the law's complexity and the lingering confusion. He said new laws or court rulings are sometimes added to the state's normal training curriculum, but full-blown courses for specific laws aren't held very often.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No profiling

- Signed by Republican Gov. Robert Bentley in June, the law is considered the nation's toughest state crackdown on illegal immigration both by supporters and opponents.
- A course handout explains how officers should operate under the state statute – profiling based on race, colour or national origin is barred – and says the law "does not authorize state, county and municipal agencies to seek out 'illegals' for deportation."
- Enforcement of the new law isn't supposed to interfere with other police work.

Apple juice can pose health risk

The flap about trace amounts of arsenic in apple juice has nutrition experts talking about other health risks that juice may pose – to waistlines and children's teeth.

The U.S. government says it is considering stricter limits on how much arsenic is allowed in apple juice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hezbollah will not stir up trouble

The leader of Hezbollah sought to reassure Lebanon on Thursday that he has no interest in stirring up trouble over an international investigation that has targeted members of his Shiite militant group.

Lebanon is deeply divided over a UN-backed tribunal investigating the 2005 assassination of Rafik Hariri, a former prime minister and billionaire statesman. There were concerns the country could be facing a political crisis after Lebanon agreed to fund the court this week, against the wishes of Hezbollah, the most powerful military and political force in Lebanon.

But on Thursday, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said he will put the country's interests ahead of everything else.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI used outreach events to collect data on Muslims

Heavily blacked-out internal FBI documents released Thursday indicate that the FBI, in some cases between 2007 and 2009, ran background checks on people they encountered at Muslim-related events and recorded personal information such as e-mail addresses, phone numbers, physical descriptions and opinions in reports marked "routine."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which obtained the documents under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, accused the FBI of misusing its community outreach programs to collect information on people at Muslim-related events that the FBI organized or was invited to attend. Those programs were intended to improve the relationship between Muslims and the FBI.

The bureau said some of the documents the ACLU published were not derived from outreach programs but were from actual criminal investigations in which it was appropriate to include specific details such as a driver's licence number.

The blacked-out parts make it difficult to understand what the reports represent. But the disclosure comes at a time when the FBI has been criticized for some of its other programs, straining the fragile relationship between law enforcement and Muslims. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hofburg boots out rightists' ball

Officials at Vienna's former imperial palace say a ball that critics say draws Nazi sympathizers will have to be staged elsewhere as of 2013.

The Hofburg palace says in a statement it will host the rightists one last time in January – when Vienna waltzes at dozens of balls – because contractual obligations must be honoured.

But it says that rightist fraternities located in Austria and Germany that traditionally dance at the Hofburg each year will have to look elsewhere starting with the 2013 ball season. Thursday's statement said the decision was made because of the "political and media dimensions" that the ball has assumed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RONALD ZAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Austrian President Heinz Fischer, right, welcomes Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, left, at the Hofburg palace in Vienna, Austria, on Nov 28.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Abousfian Abdelrazik comments on the UN decision to remove his name from a terrorism blacklist during a news conference Thursday in Montreal.

Man lashes out at government

Removed from UN terror list, but wants public apology from Canadian officials ◐ Still on U.S. no-fly list

A man celebrating his removal from a UN terror watchlist had one message for the people of Canada on Thursday, and a completely different one for the Canadian government.

Abousfian Abdelrazik expressed thanks to Canadians, many of whom offered their help and support while he lived in legal limbo.

His message to the Canadian government was the polar opposite: Thanks for nothing.

He said he and his family suffered a miserable seven years because he was wrongly placed on the terror list, which affected his ability to work, travel or hold a bank account.

"Now I am a free person. Not because of your support, but because of the support of Canadians. Now I wish you realize this fact ... (and) do the right things you were supposed to do a long time ago."

ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK, SPEAKING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

He said his reputation was tarnished and, although his name was stricken from the list this week, Abdelrazik said his heart goes out to other innocent people who remain on the list.

Abdelrazik and his supporters say what made the difference in his case was a vocal lobby and legal effort that shed light on his situation. "It would not be fair to claim this victory as my victory," he told a news conference in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AFGHANISTAN

Karzai pardons jailed rape victim

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is pardoning an Afghan woman serving a 12-year prison sentence for having sex out of wedlock after she was raped by a relative.

Karzai's office also said the woman and her attacker agreed to marry. That would reverse an earlier decision by the woman, who had previously refused a judge's offer of freedom if she agreed to wed the rapist. Thursday's statement says Karzai decided to forgive the rest of the woman's sentence after hearing from judicial officials. It's not clear how much time the woman has served.

Her plight was highlighted in a documentary blocked by the EU because it feared the women profiled would be endangered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister saddened by cenotaph vandalism

Canada's veterans affairs minister says every citizen has a duty to preserve the country's war memorials.

Steven Blaney says he's saddened and appalled about vandalism at a cenotaph in Regina's Victoria Park.

Someone spray-painted obscene graffiti on the east side of the monument to soldiers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gangsters with hearts of gold

- In Japan, samurais in suits with gangland tattoos wield power in the boardroom
- The yakuza, Japan's version of the mafia, is so entwined in society that they help in moments of crisis

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA
@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Japan's crime syndicates, the yakuza, are pictured as nine-fingered killers wielding nunchuks, covered with elaborate full-body tattoos. To be more precise, these gangsters can gamble on the financial market better than Wall Street brokers, or deliver aid to populations in need more efficiently than the Red Cross itself.

The yakuza were reportedly the first to react to Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami last March; in the disaster's immediate aftermath, they dispatched at least 70 trucks loaded with supplies worth more than $500,000, according to Jake Adelstein, a well-known crime reporter in Japan. In fact, they like to refer to think about themselves as "ninkyo dantai," or humanitarian groups.

ANTON KUSTERS / ODO YAKUZA TOKYO

▶ A member of the yazuka, a Japanese crime syndicate, shows off his gang tattoos.

"They are always in place when a disaster happens," Adelstein tells Metro. "Since Japan is in a hurry to reconstruct, eliminating organized crime elements from reconstruction and waste disposal is simply not possible."

Given their strict code of conduct, forbidding its members from street crimes, prostitution and heists, yakuza gangsters have traditionally been tolerated by Japanese society.

Recent reports have emerged that financial brokers who helped disgraced electronics group Olympus hide years of investment losses have links to the yakuza.

For these mobsters, helping the population is partly about living up the code of honour they profess, partly to get a piece of the big business of reconstruction.

Yet like any other entrepreneurial group, they also have been affected by the weak economic climate.

"Obviously with less money around and a stagnant economy, there's less money for them to make. So they have moved also to the financial sector," Adelstein says. "Yakuza gangs invest in emerging stock markets, move money overseas and are involved in large-scale financial crimes. And then, of course, extortion, gambling and drugs are still making the revenues."

Inside the yazuka

- **There's no one yakuza.** Japanese mafia is made up of 22 fraternal organizations with 86,000 members. The largest one, Yamaguchi-gumi, employs 40,000 people.
- **Joining the yakuza.** Wannabes have to pay a fee, often finding the money through violent crimes despite the yakuza's strict code of conduct. Members cut off some of their fingers as a sign of loyalty.

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▶ David Kaplan

David Kaplan, investigative reporter and author of Yakuza: Japan's criminal underworld

How does the yakuza make money today?

The last 30 years has seen a steady move towards white-collar crime and legitimate investments like real estate. Back when the Japanese bubble economy took off and the yen doubled in value against the dollar, property and real estate were going sky-high and the Yakuza assets increased substantially with those of the rest of Japan.

Even though the bubble popped, their involvement in financial crimes got much more serious: now they are the top investors in the Japanese economy.

Are they still on the edge despite the recession?

Their business ranges from street-level thugs running local gambling, prostitution to large-scale financial operations. When the economy is suffering, they shark over people going bankrupt or asking for loans.

They handle the real economy — they are the ones who collect the money and do the real off-the-book commercial negotiations.

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA

The man who crossed the yazuka

"Erase the story ... or we'll erase you. And maybe your family. But we'll do them first so you learn your lesson before you die." American journalist Jake Adelstein was told by a yakuza thug sent by the so-called "John Gotti of the Japanese mafia."

Adelsteins's transgression had been to expose one of the most powerful yakuza bosses, Tadamasa Goto, who became an FBI informant in exchange for a liver transplant in California. Adelstein's best-selling book Tokyo Vice: an American Reporter on the Police Beat in Japan"reveals the darkest underbelly of Japanese society.

Needless to say, after exposing Goto, Adelstein's life changed for good. Even though Goto was seen entering the Buddhist priesthood last year, the threats hanging over the American journalist have not disappeared.

"In the U.S. I feel very safe, but I can't move with my kids to Japan as it's still too dangerous," Adelstein says. "I live a migrant-worker existence and I'm under constant surveillance there."

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA

BBC host takes flak over quip

British PM calls Jeremy Clarkson's comments 'silly'
Network apologizes after getting 4,700 complaints

A British trade union is denouncing a low blow from the host of the popular TV show Top Gear.

The UNISON union Thursday demanded the BBC fire Jeremy Clarkson after the opinionated TV presenter said striking public sector workers should be shot.

Clarkson apologized Thursday afternoon, saying he had not meant anyone to take him seriously when he said strikers who had participated in Britain's largest public-sector walkout in 30 years Wednesday should be executed "in front of their families.

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Clarkson

"I'd have them all shot," Clarkson said on BBC television's One Show on Wednesday. "I mean, how dare they go on strike when they've got these gilt-edged pensions that are going to be guaranteed while the rest of us have to work for a living?"

Clarkson said, "I didn't for a moment intend these remarks to be taken seriously — as I believe is clear if they're seen in context," he said. "If the BBC and I have caused any offence, I'm quite happy to apologize for it alongside them."

The BBC fielded complaints after Clarkson made a joke linking truck drivers with prostitute murders and when he described former prime minister Gordon Brown as a "one-eyed Scottish idiot."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal. Meeting

▶ Queen Elizabeth meets Yoko Ono, right, during a visit to the Museum of Liverpool in Liverpool, England, Thursday.

TIM HALES/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool's best go on display

With 8,000 metres of public space, the recently opened Museum of Liverpool looks at Britain and the world through the eyes of the city, with 6,000 objects showcasing its unique contribution to the world.

Will, Kate, Harry to be Olympic envoys

Prince William, his wife Kate Middleton and brother Prince Harry will be official ambassadors to the 2012 London Olympic Games, royal officials said Thursday.

St. James's Palace said that all three will play a leading role in "encouraging and inspiring the British public to rally behind the 900 Olympic and Paralympic athletes" competing for Britain.

They also will use their roles to encourage greater awareness of Olympic and Paralympic values, the palace said.

The royals join 27 British Olympians from previous Games who were unveiled as 2012 ambassadors by the British Olympic Association earlier this year.

William said he feels honoured to have been chosen and that his entire family is looking forward to the Games. "London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will inspire so many people — particularly the young — to be the best they can be," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Green party Leader Elizabeth May leaves a press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa Thursday.

GREEN PARTY LEADER OFFERS HER TALENTS TO SOUTH PACIFIC

Green party Leader Elizabeth May says since her own government doesn't want her contribution at an international conference on climate change, she's offered it to the South Pacific nation of Tuvalu.

May calls it a "gross insult" the federal government has excluded her and other opposition MPs from the Canadian delegation heading to a key climate conference in South Africa.

She says she and opposition environment critics sent the Prime Minister's Office a letter offering to pay their own way to the conference in Durban and they haven't received so much as a reply.

"If my government, the Government of Canada, does not need my help, I offer it to another government, one that works for my children because the Government of Canada does not work for my children, my grandchildren," May said in French.

"Only the Tuvalu government does. I trust their delegation a lot and do not trust at all the Government of Canada and its delegation."

May even tried to join the Tuvalu delegation but missed the deadline.

May says excluding her — the lone Green party MP in the House of Commons — is one thing. Excluding the environment critics from the official Opposition NDP and Liberals is unprecedented, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

German expert rules out 2012 apocalypse

Famous Mayan tablet details coming of new era, not end of world says expert ◐ World-changing event to take place on Dec. 21, 2012

The end is not near.

At least that's according to a German expert who says his decoding of a Mayan tablet with a reference to a 2012 date denotes a transition to a new era and not a possible end of the world as others have read it.

The interpretation of the hieroglyphs by Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia was presented for the first time Wednesday at the archeological site of Palenque in southern Mexico.

His comments came less than a week after Mexico's archaeology institute acknowledged there was a second reference to the 2012 date in Mayan inscriptions, touching off another round of talk about whether it predicts the end of the world.

Gronemeyer has been studying the stone tablet found years ago at the archeological site of Tortuguero in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco.

He said the inscription describes the return of mysterious Mayan god Bolon Yokte at the end of a 13th period of 400 years, known as Baktuns, on the equivalent of Dec. 21, 2012.

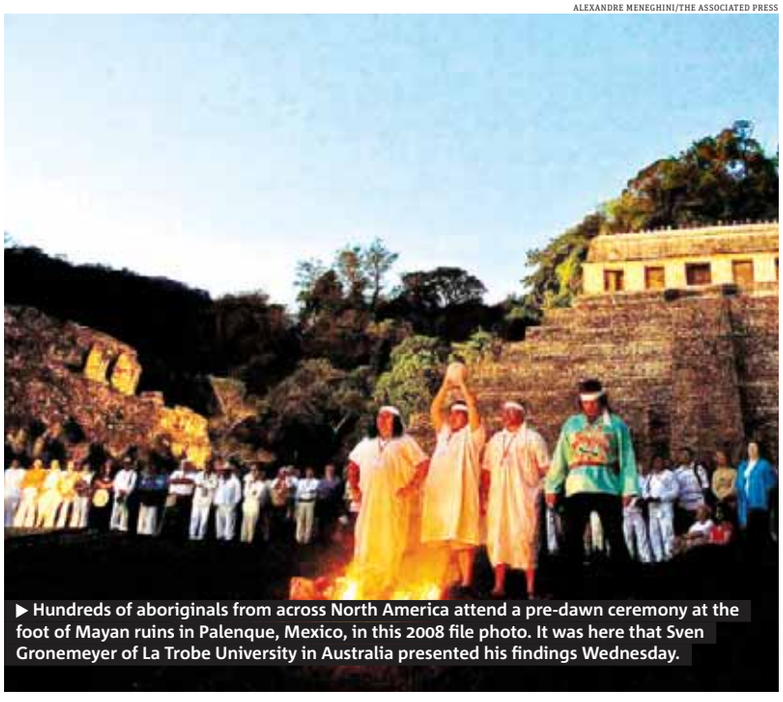
Mayans considered 13 a sacred number. There's nothing apocalyptic in the date, Gronemeyer said.

The text was carved about 1,300 years ago. The stone has cracked, which has made the end of the passage almost illegible.

Gronemeyer said the inscription refers to the end of a cycle of 5,125 years since the beginning of the Mayan Long Count calendar in 3113 B.C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Hundreds of aboriginals from across North America attend a pre-dawn ceremony at the foot of Mayan ruins in Palenque, Mexico, in this 2008 file photo. It was here that Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia presented his findings Wednesday.

Apocalypse 101

- **Last week, Mexico's** National Institute of Anthropology said a second inscription mentioning the 2012 date is on the carved or moulded face of a brick.
- **Many experts doubt the** second inscription is a definite reference to the date cited as the possible end of the world, saying there is no future-tense marking as there is on the other tablet.
- **The institute has tried to** dispel talk of a 2012 apocalypse. Its latest step was to arrange a special round table of Mayan experts this week at Palenque.

Dentist hits sour note with NYC patient

A lawsuit says a New York City dentist who moonlights as a singer is trying to prevent patients from posting online reviews of her dental work.

The federal lawsuit was filed this week by former patient Robert Lee. It says Dr. Stacy Makhnevich forced him to sign an agreement not to criticize her online before she worked on his tooth.

But a post by Lee on the online review site Yelp alleged the dentist overbilled him by $4,000.

He said Makhnevich accused him of breaching the privacy agreement and billed him $100 a day for every day his negative posting remained online.

Makhnevich did not immediately return a call seeking comment Thursday.

The singing dentist recently released an album entitled European Opera and describes herself online as "the Classical Singer Dentist of New York."

In the past she has performed alongside a number of companies including Amicci Opera Company, Tribecca Art Center and Greensboro Opera.

Lee's lawyer, Paul Levy, tells the Daily News that the privacy agreement violates patients' constitutional right to free speech.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High winds blast California, Utah

Many schools closed, thousands lose power

Some of the worst winds in years blasted through California Wednesday night, sweeping through canyons, gusting up to 156 km/h, and toppling trees and trucks while knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of people.

An estimated 300,000 customers in Southern California were without electricity Thursday morning.

High winds were also reported elsewhere throughout the US west, including 160 km/h gusts that forced a Utah town to close schools.

"What's driving this is a large, cold low-pressure system that's currently centred over Needles, Calif. The strong winds are wrapping around it," weather service forecaster Andrew Rorke said.

The winds were colder but fiercer than the Santa Ana winds that often hit California in late fall.

MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Firefighters in Beverly Hills, Calif., look over damage caused by high winds.

"It seems like there's been extensive damage across the county," based on preliminary reports, said Bob Spencer, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

"It was a terrifying ride for me, coming here in pitch dark...and watching motorists take no notice of lights being out," he said. "What the weather experts are telling us are that these probably are the worst windstorms to hit [the area] in more than a decade."

High winds ripping through Utah overturned several semi-trucks on or near Interstate 15, and 54,000 customers in Utah were without power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspect denies hand in tourist swept to sea case

An American businessman detained for four months after the presumed death of his travelling companion in Aruba said yesterday he had nothing to do with her disappearance.

Gary Giordano, 50, was released from jail Tuesday, and on Wednesday an appeals court ruled that prosecutors lacked sufficient evidence to continue holding him in the disappearance of Robyn Gardner.

During an 11-minute interview yesterday on ABC television's Good Morning America, Giordano refused to detail what happened to Gardner on Aug. 2, the last day she was seen alive, saying he has told that story to investigators "50, 60 times." He has said she was swept out to sea while snorkeling. Her body has not been found.

Giordano tried to clarify aspects of his behaviour that investigators have called suspicious. He said the $1.5 million accidental death policy he took out on Gardner was part of a travel insurance package that covered both of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Robyn Gardner

Aruban prosecutors still consider Giordano a suspect and are continuing to pursue the case with the assistance of the FBI. But they likely cannot return him to Aruba unless they intend to bring him to trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police say grandmother, 90, was poisoned

A central Pennsylvania woman is being held without bail in the poisoning death three years ago of her 90-year-old grandmother.

York, Penn. Regional Police say Shelby Lyn Adams mixed morphine with her grandmother's chili during a May 2008 outing to a fast-food restaurant. Ada Adams became ill and died two days later of opiate toxicity.

Investigators say Ada Adams was fatally poisoned shortly after discovering thousands of dollars were missing from her chequing account. Police say Shelby Lyn Adams has admitted taking the woman's chequebook and writing out $12,000 in cheques to herself.

Authorities say Shelby Lyn Adams had access to morphine as an emergency room employee at York Hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In search of new spies

U.K. agency recruiting self-taught cyber hackers James Bond types with no math skills need not apply

A British government spy agency is using an anonymous code-breaking web page to recruit self-taught hackers "we might not reach otherwise," a spokesman for the U.K.'s Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

GCHQ, which works with the legendary British spy agencies MI5 and MI6, launched the page "gently" nearly a month ago with no clues about its source. "We kind of seeded it on to some social media elements," the spokesman told the Toronto Star yesterday.

GCHQ admitted its old recruiting networks, most famously Oxford and Cambridge graduates, don't always work. "Traditionally, cyber specialists enter the organization as graduates," the agency said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ODD ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A member of hacker organization Chaos Computer Club works on his computer. A British spy agency is out to recruit self-taught hackers.

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Burma. U.S. ties

▶ Opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi delivers her speech during an event to mark World AIDS Day yesterday.

KHIN MAUNG WIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton meets Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi had dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday in a diplomatic residence in the port city of Yangon (formerly known as Rangoon). The extraordinary meeting came at the end of Clinton's first full day of her trip and was the first by a top-ranking American official in more than 50 years.

Governors want U.S. to reclassify marijuana

The governors of two U.S. states have asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reclassify marijuana as a medical treatment, so doctors can prescribe it and pharmacists can fill the prescription.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire and Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee said they want the U.S. government to list marijuana as a Schedule 2 drug.

Marijuana is currently classified as a Schedule 1 drug, meaning it's not accepted for medical treatment and can't be prescribed, administered or dispensed.

Washington and Rhode Island are two of 16 states, plus the District of Columbia, that have laws allowing the medical use of marijuana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brother! What a triumph

Partial results show the hustling Brotherhood surging in Egypt's poll

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood is emerging as the biggest winner in Egypt's first parliamentary election since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.

Voters have turned out in unexpected droves.

First-time voter Hassan Abdel-Hamid was undecided — until he got a flyer telling him how to vote from "the guys with the computer."

Outside polling stations, Brotherhood activists were set up with laptop computers, helping voters find their voter numbers.

They posted activists to wave banners, pass out flyers or simply chat up voters waiting in line.

And in a marked change from previous elections, when Brotherhood members touted Islamic credentials, this time they focused on improved services, to appeal to poor voters.

"They outspent, outworked and politically outclassed the other political parties by a huge factor."
ELIJAH ZARWAN, POLITICAL ANALYST

For decades, the Mubarak regime suppressed the Muslim Brotherhood. But it has transformed itself into a potent campaign machine, holding rallies and wallpapering neighbourhoods with banners.

Final election results are expected Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶A statue of legendary singer Umm Kulthum wears an eyepatch — symbolizing protesters wounded in clashes with security forces in Cairo's Tahrir Square on Thursday.

STATUE UNEARTHED

After 3,400 years, king lives on

Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a large statue of king Amenhotep III, who ruled nearly 3,400 years ago.

Amenhotep III was the grandfather of the famed boy-pharaoh Tutankhamun.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities said the latest find was made at the king's funerary temple in the southern city of Luxor.

Thursday's statement said the 13.5-metre-tall statue is made of coloured quartzite.

It is composed of several large pieces that once put together will depict the king as standing.

Amenhotep III ruled from 1390 to 1352 B.C.

The latest find comes after several other relics of the king were unearthed last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants warned: Don't fall for 'official' scams

Immigration scams are getting so sophisticated that fraudsters now advertise online with websites that perfectly mimic those of official government agencies, U.S. officials say.

On Thursday they rolled out a nationwide awareness campaign.

It's aimed at educating legal and illegal immigrants to avoid everything from unlicensed service providers to phoney websites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

High. And dry

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/ AP PHOTO

▶ According to the World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland is on track to suffer one of its three driest years on record.

Switzerland struggles without snow

Empty ski lifts pass by snow-free mountains in the ski resort of Verbier, in the south-western part of Switzerland, Thursday. Unusually warm, dry weather has Switzerland's ski resorts on edge, threatening the traditional start of the ski season in the first weekend of December.

Aid worker abducted by Pakistani militants

- **70-year-old American kidnapped by suspected Islamist terrorist group**
- **Al-Qaida promise to release man once prisoners freed, airstrikes stop**

Al-Qaida claimed responsibility yesterday for the kidnapping of a 70-year-old American aid worker in Pakistan in August, and issued a series of demands for his release.

In a video message posted on militant websites, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri said Warren Weinstein would be released if the United States stopped airstrikes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. He also demanded the release of all al-Qaida and Taliban suspects around the world.

"Just as the Americans detain all whom they suspect of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban, even remotely, we detained this man who is neck-deep in American aid to Pakistan since the 1970s," al-Zawahri said, according to a translation provided by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant messages.

Weinstein was abducted by armed men from his house in the eastern city of Lahore on Aug. 13. Police and U.S. officials have not publicly said who they believed was holding him, but Islamist militant groups were the main suspects.

Weinstein has worked in Pakistan for several years and speaks Urdu.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syria now in a state of civil war, UN says

Syria has entered a state of civil war with more than 4,000 people dead and an increasing number of soldiers defecting from the army to fight President Bashar al-Assad's regime, the UN's top human rights official said Thursday.

Civil war has been the worst-case scenario in Syria since the revolt against Assad began eight months ago. Damascus has a web of allegiances that extends to Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement and Iran's Shiite theocracy, raising fears of a regional conflagration.

The assessment that the bloodshed in Syria has crossed into civil war came from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay.

"As soon as there were more and more defectors threatening to take up arms, I said this in August before the Security Council, that there's going to be a civil war."
NAVI PILLAY, UN COMMISSIONER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINNIPEG

Man found guilty of Labossiere murders

A man has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting of another man and his pregnant wife.

Joel and Magdalena Labossiere were gunned down in their Winnipeg home while their infant daughter slept nearby.

The jury deliberated for about a day before convicting Kelly Clarke, who showed no emotion as the verdict was read Thursday.

The court proceeded immediately with victim impact statements.

Clarke, 41, faces an automatic sentence of life in prison with no parole eligibility for at least 25 years.

The prosecution's case hinged on the testimony of a man who met Clarke while they were both in jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists spot albino dolphin

Brazilian biologists say they have found an extremely rare example of an albino dolphin among an endangered species that lives off the southern coast of South America.

The research group based at Univille university in Santa Catarina studies the pontoporia blainvillei species, a very shy type of dolphin that rarely jumps out of the water. The white calf with pinkish fins was spotted in October. It was with an adult, probably its mother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. MP under fire over envoy remark

A British lawmaker has been criticized after suggesting the country's ambassador to Israel may be biased because he is Jewish.

Labour legislator Paul Flynn told a parliamentary committee that two constituents had complained that ambassador Matthew Gould "was serving the interest of the Israeli government." "I do not normally fall for conspiracy theories, but the ambassador has proclaimed himself to be a Zionist." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eBay eyes holiday shoppers

Popular online retail and auctions site touts QR shopping at temporary pop-up shop in London's trendy Soho district, just in time for Christmas

Purchase power

- 10% of eBay's sales revenue is from mobile commerce.
- 60% of items are brand-new and sold through the Buy It Now system.
- eBay has also collaborated with major stores in both New York and San Francisco.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES)

▶ EBay's new pop-up store in London.

The news that eBay has set up shop seems like a bizarre, counter-intuitive business strategy. However, the pop-up store located on Dean Street in London's trendy Soho is eBay's first foray into multi-channel shopping, following the likes of Internet giants Amazon, who have tried something similar.

Of course, given that it's only open for five days — from December 1 through 5 — the shop is basically a perfectly timed publicity stunt, during the busiest period for Christmas shopping.

Skepticism aside, the boutique does give less tech-savvy shoppers the opportunity to understand how QR shopping works.

In layman terms, shoppers scan the QR barcode with their smartphone, which then takes them through to the eBay site, where purchases are processed. It's that simple. Staff are on hand to help any technophobes out.

What sets it apart from a traditional store is that one cannot physically purchase anything and there are no ringing tills — nor long lineups. EBay spokesperson Antonia Pearson says, "It's great to have a physical manifestation of eBay to showcase our products and make people aware that we do sell brand-new packaged gifts — it's not all about bidding." METRO

Consumer report

Canadians slowing their borrowing habits: Report

There are signs that Canadian consumers have slowed down their borrowing this year, after peaking in the fourth quarter of 2010.

A TransUnion analysis released Thursday found that average consumer debt, excluding mortgages, was $25,594 in the third quarter.

That's about where it has been throughout 2011, although up slightly from where it was in the third quarter of 2010.

That means Canadians are increasingly reluctant to add to their lines of credit, consumer and car loans and credit card debt as they face an uncertain economy that's eroding their confidence.

TransUnion is a firm that tracks consumer borrowing through credit cards, lines of credit and auto financing.

In its report Thursday, TransUnion said the third-quarter debt total is still about 1.7 per cent higher than in the same 2010 period but notes the pace of increases has slowed as the year has progressed.

The agency also noted that mortgage insurance bought by homeowners facing high-ratio debts fell by about 10 per cent, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Angry Birds go nuts for product placement

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Popular video game Angry Birds

The Angry Birds have gone nuts. They have also sold out to the Man.

The world's most popular video game app had its first taste of the lucrative world of advertising in September, with a 15-second spot featuring Wonderful Pistachios.

In the ad, a red bird uses a slingshot to turn a green pig into a flying nutcracker.

Now there's a new Angry Birds game, The Hunt for the Golden Pistachio, that takes product placement to new heights.

A spokesperson for Finland's Rovio, the creator of Angry Birds, told Mashable.com that this is the first game conceived from inception with the advertiser in mind.

According to Rovio, users rack up 300 million minutes of play time around the world every day. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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LET'S GET PHYSICAL, OR NOT ...

THE METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM
METRO

1 **Fan-tastic:** After a long game of "chicken," the NBA finally carved out a deal that barely anyone understands. My thoughts: You're a muscular six-foot-nine man making over $5 million for putting a ball in a 10-foot hoop. Please, just put on your free socks and sneakers, do your job, and maybe one day, you too can marry a Kardashian. Thanks.

2 **Costly Cancon:** Our beloved national broadcaster faces criticism once again. The Federal Court of Appeal ruled in favour of budget transparency, but CBC prez Hubert Lacroix still wants his annual $1.1-billion government subsidy. Lacroix says the money is necessary to maintain vital Canadian content like Hockey Night in Canada, local news and election night coverage. I say, "How much for just the hockey?"

3 **Free health care?:** A recent news story about exorbitant hospital parking fees quoted the Canada Health Act, which states that "Canadians should have access to health care without financial or other barriers." A moderate example is North York General Hospital in Toronto, where a day pass costs $23. It is not unusual for patients with complicated illnesses to be there for a month, which is $700. Then again, drug shortages, disgruntled personnel, and sub-par food ensure that they probably won't last that long anyway.

4 **High anxiety:** A study out of Cardiff University in Wales found that children with a high IQ at age 5-10 were more likely to experiment with drugs as adults. Dr. James White speculates that smarter people are simply more open to new experiences. My theory is that drug addicts in their 30s are more likely to lie about having a high IQ as a child.

5 **Pop history:** If you are turning 30 this week, the No. 1 song when you were born, which you were likely exposed to while in the womb, was Let's Get Physical by Olivia Newton-John. I just thought that might shed some light in therapy.

6 **Great ones:** Wayne Gretzky supposedly demanded 22-year-old daughter Paulina shut down her Twitter account because he found her photos to be distasteful. Even Gretzky admits to having looked at risqué photos of hot women before but maintains that none of them was anyone's daughter.

7 **True story:** On this day in 1969, Cindy Birdsong of the Supremes was kidnapped at knifepoint by a maintenance man in her building. She later escaped unharmed by jumping out of his moving car on the San Diego freeway. Wow! And people thought Diana Ross was special.

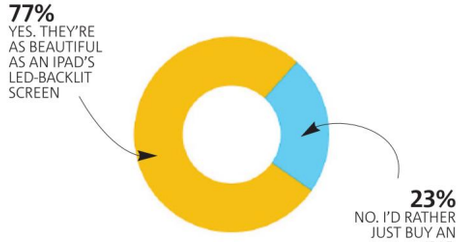
8 **Extreme couponing:** I suffer from "chronic buyer's remorse" as a result of family members who are always giddy with tales of their web-found bargains. I ignore emails from "deal"sites because I fail to see the use in an automatic toilet flusher, but someone informed me of a site that aggregates and sends you just one email containing only items you actually want. It's called Dealfart.com. Kudos to them for a name that pretty much sums it up.

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you pay the equivalent of an iPad to save a polar bear?



Local tweets

▶**@CityofVancouver:** Today is World AIDS Day @CDNAIDS. Get the message out. ow.ly/7Lpxo

▶**@RichTweets:** What can you can do for #WorldAIDSday? Support the @drpeterAIDSfdn in #Vancouver. Make a difference today. Donate. drpeter.org

▶**@samreiss_:** Chris Getzlaf came home and Tammy rushed him. "Baby. Christmas with Ryan and Shelly in Anaheim?" The slotback stared blankly. #cflwives

▶**@canucks_girl:** Game day! MG's birthday! Canucks honouring the Grey Cup before the game! I can't freakin' wait!

▶**@elmeebaterina:** Just saw a video of last night's Grey Cup celebrations at BC Place. I wish I was there!! Will there be a parade for the champs?!?! #BCLions

▶**@kaaydubzz:** So, so excited for Mason Raymond's return tonight! #canucks

▶**@mikejang:** @AY604 you're right. if luongo is traded, i GUARANTEE "fans" will be all over schneids when he falters. #canucks #fickle

MARK WANNER/ST LOUIS ZOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Daily Zoom

Raise a little hell

Endangered

In this photo provided by the St. Louis Zoo, an Ozark hellbender is shown developing in an egg.

▶ The rare Ozark hellbender, an endangered amphibian found only in a few Missouri and Arkansas counties, has been successfully bred in captivity for the first time, offering new hope for the animal's survival, scientists said.

▶ For 45 to 60 days after hatching, the tiny larvae will retain their yolk sack for nutrients and move very little. They eventually lose their external gills by the time they reach 1.5 to two years of age.

Hellbender not the worst moniker

Ozark hellbenders shown just after hatching. Also known by the colloquial names of "snot otter" and "old lasagna sides," hellbenders can grow to be two feet at five to eight years of age, the zoo said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

600

An Ozark hellbender at two weeks old. The zoo says rivers in south-central Missouri and northern Arkansas once supported up to 8,000 hellbenders. Today fewer than 600 exist in the world.

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HOLIDAY 2011 gift guide

Do you hear what I hear?

You will if you receive one of these gift ideas for the audiophile in your life MP3's, headphones, gadgets

MIKE YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Whether you are listening to tunes in the comfort of your home or on public transit through headphones, music can help anyone get into the holiday spirit.

Here are a few gift ideas for the audiophile in your life.

Apple iPod Touch — starting at $199

Apple continues to dominate the MP3 player market. Year after year the iPod Touch is the best-selling MP3 player. There is a reason for that. The device is well-designed with a large touchscreen, which not only plays music but hundreds of thousands of apps and games. It's like an iPhone … minus the phone!

Sony A Series Walkman — $199

A 2.8-inch touchscreen is your window to the world of music. Not sure of the lyrics to your favourite song? The A series Walkman lets you upload lyric files that will display in sync with the music. You can also play video files, display photos, listen to FM radio and record personal notes.

SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip — starting at $49.99

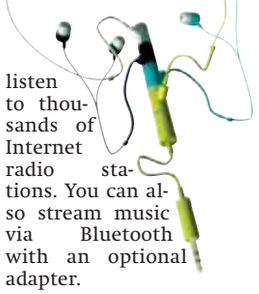
A simple MP3 player loaded with features. The Sansa Clip Zip gets its name from the clip on the back, which makes it easy to attach to your workout clothes at the gym. On the front, you will find a colour display so you always know what song is playing. It also has very simple controls to guide you through the menus. Not only can you play music but the Sansa Clip Zip also has a built-in FM radio, support for audiobooks and podcasts, a voice recorder and a stopwatch. Great price for such a feature-laden device.

From top: Apple iPod Touch, starting at $199, SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip, middle, starting at $49.99, and Pioneer X-SMC3, right, $369.99.

iHome iD85, $139.99, and SkunkJuice Earbuds, $35.99, below right.

SkunkJuice Earbuds — $35.99

Funny name but a great idea! These earbuds are designed for sharing music. Patented magnetic connection technology allows up to four sets of SkunkJuice earbuds to connect together into a single audio input on an MP3 player. No more sharing earbuds! The perfect gift for teens.



Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre — $329

Two big names come together in one set of on-ear headphones. Monster (known for high-end audio/video cables) and Dr. Dre have teamed up to bring these high-definition headphones to market. Known for their superior sound quality, these Beats headphones have a unique trifold design to ensure they fold for easy storage when not in use. They also feature Cloudtalk technology for hands-free calling!

Pioneer X-SMC3 — $369.99

Why keep the music bottled up! Spread some sound around your home. The Pioneer X-SMC3 will do just that. This high-end music system sounds amazing, pumping out some decent bass. Wirelessly stream music from your iOS device via Airplay, or connect your favourite MP3 player with a cable. Since the system is connected to your home network you can listen to thousands of Internet radio stations. You can also stream music via Bluetooth with an optional adapter.

iHome iD85 — $139.99

It's always easier to wake up to the sound of music. Dock your iPhone, iPod or iPad to the iD85 and let it recharge overnight. The dock features dual alarms so two people can rely on the device for their wakeup call. And for all you lazybones out there, you can automatically sync the clock with the time on your iPhone, iPod or iPad.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre, $329, top left, and Sony A Series Walkman, $199, above.

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KEITH CARMAN
FOR METRO

Rounding up a year's worth of extraordinary music is never an easy undertaking. With seemingly as many genres sprouting up as there are grains of sand in the Sahara, something is surely to be missed.

Tougher still? Picking out one of those gems for the music enthusiast on our gift list. Paring down the style only seems to open up a Pandora's box of who's who, who's hot and who's not.

In an effort to provide clarity, simplicity and a defibrillator to your ego, try a few of these tested, respected and occasionally obvious albums from the past few months or slated to be released just prior to the holidays.

Pop freaks know how much of a marvel Lady Gaga's Born This Way (Interscope) was upon its release earlier this year. For those who might already own it, however, check out Born This Way: The Remix, an unsubtle re-imagining of that explosive affair.

On a more soulful level, anticipation for chanteuse Rhianna's sixth work Talk That Talk (Def Jam) has been stirring heavily alongside the likes of Mary J. Blige's 10th full-length My Life II — The Journey Continues (Act 1) (Geffen), both to be issued in standard and deluxe editions. For traditionalists, well, they may be getting long in the tooth, but as latest venture Hot Sauce Committee Part Two (Capitol) asserts, New York hip-hop heroes The Beastie Boys still hold their own.

If spirited lighter fare is of the essence, try The 30th Annual John Lennon Tribute, Live From the Beacon Theatre, NYC (Theatre Within), a gala featuring the likes of Patti Smith, Jackson Browne, Taj Mahal, Aimee Mann, Shelby Lynne, Martin Sexton, Bettye LaVette, Joan Osborne, Keb' Mo' and more celebrating the life of a rock legend via his songs.

Not to be outdone, folk-infused poetic punk Frank Turner's England Keep My Bones (Epitaph) is easily one of the most rousing and passionate yet down-to-earth albums you probably haven't heard this year. Woody Guthrie would be proud. Similarly, on The King Is Dead (Rough Trade), folk lovers The Decemberists are surprisingly smooth.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

❄ Foo Fighters' Wasting Light would make a great gift for the rock fan on your list.

Rock fan in the crew? One could do far worse than to grab them a copy of Foo Fighters' gripping Wasting Light (Roswell), their seventh album overall and most comprehensive in years. For something less aggressive, Arctic Monkeys' Suck It And See (Domino) has been heralded as a champion affair.

For the classical fanatic, Naxos Of Canada is set to release a bevy of box sets featuring everything from jazz and instrumentals to operas and ballets. Formats range from separate collections to complete editions of Beethoven, Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff, Chopin and more.

If metal is the name of the game, as has become standard fare over their quarter-century (and then some) rivalry, heavy stalwarts Megadeth and Metallica have both issued fresh material just in time. Sating diehard fans of brain-bashing drums and buzz saw guitar riffs, the former's Th1rt3en (Roadrunner) runs exactly as planned. Reaching into more esoteric territory, Metallica opt to work with oddball rocker Lou Reed on elongated affair Lulu (Warner/Vertigo).

Finally, just because they are still kicking after so many decades, to thrill the young audiophile — or torment their parents — consider Alvin And The Chipmunks' Chipwrecked: Music From The Motion Picture featuring those iconic hyperactive rodents at their most ... well, whatever it is that rodents are.

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Jingle Bells and everything in between

Take a listen to these diverse festive music selections, some old, some new from Justin Bieber to The Muppets

KEITH CARMAN
FOR METRO

Lists, frantic shopping, bills, wrapping, entertaining. Sometimes it's tough to truly get into the holiday spirit.

That's where the right music comes into play and this season there is plenty of it.

Vying to get us into the festive mood, a host of musicians have worked diligently through the fall to offer their unique takes on everything from original tunes to favourite standards in such diverse genres as pop, jazz and even heavy metal for this coming yule. A few options to get you glowing:

Meaghan Smith

It Snowed
Warner

Having hit shelves as of Nov. 1, Juno Award winner Meaghan Smith's latest holiday bundle offers a fresh take on traditionals such as Baby It's Cold Outside with fellow Canuck artist Buck 65, as well as original ditties including Christmas Kiss. Available in both standard and a deluxe package bolstered by an autographed lithograph and exclusive acoustic tracks, It Snowed is a delightfully smooth piece of holiday pop.

Justin Bieber

Under The Mistletoe
Island/Universal

This teen idol may be having some kiss-and-tell issues in his daily life but when it comes to inaugural seasonal album Under The Mistletoe, the boy wonder simply can't be touched. Also issued Nov. 1, the 11-track affair (15 in the deluxe version) immediately snagged top spot on North American charts. Featuring both classics (Silent Night, Santa Claus Is Coming To Town) and some fresh material, it's sure to make a tween's eyes twinkle.

David Ian

Vintage Christmas
Prescott Records (Naxos of Canada)

As even his own publicist relates, "How does an ear-splitting, note-shredding rock guitarist who leaps off amps in concert end up releasing an album of mellow, jazz-oriented Christmas songs?" It doesn't really matter when Vintage Christmas unfolds. Toronto-based Grammy-nominated rocker Ian knows his way around both a fretboard and a swinging rendition of staples Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. Jumpin' jazz takes on traditional tunes? Count us in.

Various Artists

The Muppets: A Green And Red Christmas
Universal

Yes, it's a re-release of their infamous 2006 effort, but when fortified by new tracks finding Gonzo and Fozzie singing I Wish I Could Be Santa Claus, as well as the entire crew aided by Andrea Bocelli on Jingle Bells, who can resist?

Black Label Society

Glorious Christmas Songs That Will Make Your Black Label Heart Feel Good
eOne

While metal heads were somewhat late to the holiday table, the past few years have seen them more than make up for it. Serving up his own tray of tasty thematic alloy, Zakk Wylde's EP has a title longer than its run time. Still, hearing him belt out I'll Be Home For Christmas, O Little Town Of Bethlehem and Wonderful World in his inimitable style will put any brazen headbanger in a buoyant bent.

PETER KRAMER/NBC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

❄ Singer Justin Bieber performs on the Today show last month in New York.

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SMART GIFT GIVING

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BUY A MOBILE PHONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER

SIZE MATTERS

Hold the phone in your hands; how heavy is it? Put the phone in your pocket or in your purse; how bulky is it? Mobile phone experts call this the "form factor," and there is some value in considering whether the phone is the right shape for your needs. You'll also want to look at the screen size, along with other things such as whether it has a QWERTY keyboard or a touchscreen, or both.

Nokia E73

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

How easy is it to take a photo? Do you have to load a separate camera app, or can you just press a button to take a picture? Does the camera have a flash, like Mobilicity's Nokia E73? Does it shoot video, and if it does, is it in HD, like the BlackBerry Torch 9810? Some smartphones even have front-facing cameras, like the HTC Panache, which allows you to record a video of yourself and take self-portraits.

HTC Panache

PLATFORM AND APPS

What OS does the phone run on, and are there any apps that are exclusive to it? Take BlackBerry phones and their acclaimed BlackBerry Messenger app. It's one of the most popular messaging platforms around. And when it comes to accessing thousands of other cool apps and games, there's nothing like Android smartphones, like the Nexus S. With apps that do everything from monitoring your fitness routine to tracking your expenses, smartphones are quickly turning into virtual personal assistants!

FEATURES

What does this phone have that others don't? For example, the HTC Panache 4G offers many unique features, based on the HTC Sense user interface, including allowing users to juggle multiple email accounts with colour-coding, and streaming contacts' social network status and updates alongside their photos when they call or text. The Panache also allows users to instantly silence the phone ringer with a quick flip of the device.

Nexus S

IT'S A MATCH

WHO'S ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST THIS YEAR?

For the latest and greatest affordable mobile phones and smartphones without contracts or tabs, check out these cool picks from Mobilicity.

THE NEWBIE

For someone who is not too technically inclined, a basic mobile phone such as the LG Wink, which is uncomplicated yet sleek and stylish, would be a great fit. It has a two-inch screen, camera, MP3 player and music player, and stereo Bluetooth Connectivity. Like most mobile phones, it also has a rechargeable battery and charger. ***Sale price, $49.99***

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

For the person who wants to be connected to everyone and everything all the time, Mobilicity recommends the BlackBerry Curve 9360 smartphone. A classic BlackBerry, the slim phone features a QWERTY keyboard, 5.0 megapixel camera, WiFi connectivity and GPS navigation. It has a fast browser and is great for web-based video and gaming. ***Regular price, $299.99***

THE GADGET LOVER

The HTC Panache 4G is suitable for people who love gadgets and a phone with the latest and greatest features. It has a portable Wi-Fi hotspot, as well as an interactive camera and GPS navigation with turn by turn directions. There is a 3.8-inch touchscreen. And, you can erase the phone contents if the mobile phone is lost. ***Exclusive to Mobilicity, sale price, $299.99***

THE TEENAGER

If your teen has been bugging you for a smartphone, and you're crunched for cash, take a look at the Nokia 500. Emails as well as updates from Facebook and Twitter arrive 24/7 on the 3.2-inch full touchscreen. The phone has a fast processor and WiFi, meaning everything will run fast and smoothly whether browsing the web or playing games. ***Regular price, $169.99***

WRAP UP GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL YEAR ROUND

Mobilicity provides a range of products that make great gifts any time of the year. Here are a few examples.

BIRTHDAYS

Give the gift that keeps on giving — the Nexus S provides access to thousands of apps. And with Mobilicity's unlimited data, it's easy and affordable to browse the web, watch videos and play games.

VALENTINE'S DAY

You'll love the new BlackBerry Bold 9900. It comes with a QWERTY keyboard, so you can text and email your sweetheart quickly, and to your heart's content.

ANNIVERSARY

Marriage is a partnership; what better way to celebrate than with matching smartphones? Regardless of whether you like a touchscreen or a full QWERTY keyboard, the BlackBerry Torch 9810 will have both of you covered.

SIGNS IT'S TIME FOR A NEW PHONE

1. If co-workers email you photos from the office holiday party, and you have time to make yourself a coffee before they load, it's time for a new phone with a beefier processor. The Nexus S from Mobilicity has a 1GHz processor, which means you can download those photos, post them to Facebook, and tweet about the party, all before your coffee brews. And with Mobilicity's unlimited data, you can post and tweet as much as you want.

2. If you only have enough memory to store four songs on your phone, it may be time for a new phone. Mobilicity's LG Wink comes with an MP3 player, and you can upgrade the memory to 16GB.

3. If the numbers and letters on your keypad are starting to fade, why not upgrade to something with a touchscreen instead? Mobilicity's Samsung Galaxy Mini features a 3.14-inch touchscreen, and has a 3 megapixel camera and camcorder.

Treasures for your favourite cook

EMILY RICHARDS
FOR METRO

All I want for Christmas is lots of goodies for my kitchen! OK, maybe not all for me, but certainly to give as gifts to friends.

I often get asked what should I have in my kitchen?

Well, here are some great tools for the kitchen that are not only great to give but perfect to receive. So if you haven't started your list yet, I suggest you add a few, if not all, of these great ideas.

You can pick and choose or create a "basket" to give this holiday season that is themed for the kitchen. With a little thought and some strong shopping you will receive or give the best kitchen gifts this season.

❄ Seasonal napkins, skewers, bamboo forks and small serving dishes work well for appetizer parties.

❄ Choose these for the food lover on your gift list. Kitchen tools include a chef's knife, silicone spatula, zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons, dry measuring cups and tongs. A Cuisinart waffle maker, below left, and a collapsible popcorn maker, below, from Dolce.

Kitchen tools to give and receive

This selection can make a lot of people happy, so buy one or buy them all. Truly useful to make cooking a delight! Chef's knife, silicone spatula, Microplane zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons and dry measuring cups, and tongs.

For the cheese lover

Look for a small or large brie baker and spreader for a simple straightforward gift and perhaps include a brie for a get-together. For other cheeses be sure to include a small cheese board and cheese knife set.

For the baker

Let your imagination grab you! Pick up a bowl and fill it with useful kitchen tools like a rolling pin, cookie cutters, dry measuring cups, measuring spoons, zester/grater and silicone spatula

For the appetizer parties

Serving things up in small bites is very popular so why not create a few gifts that can help a hostess out? Look for seasonal napkins, skewers of all shapes and sizes, bamboo forks, small serving dishes and bowls, and tasting spoons

True essentials

There are a few simple tools you shouldn't be without to make cooking enjoyable and fun. A chef's knife will help you chop and dice your way through incredible recipes, the cutting board will protect your knife and your counters, dry measuring cups and spoons will make sure you have the right amounts you need and good salt will help it all be seasoned to perfection.

Bigger items for kitchen gadget lovers

This is where you can look at small appliances with eyes wide open and have some fun.

If you enjoy waffles from restaurants you can recreate the tasty morning dish by making your own at home with a waffle maker. Or for movie buffs, check out a lively popcorn maker that will get your guests watching the popcorn and not the movie. And for pizza lovers, be sure to sneak in a colourful nonstick pizza stone to keep pizza warm right at the table, too

Whether you are looking for yourself or for friends and family, kitchen tools are an important part of the home and make cooking a truly fun and memorable experience.

So be sure to check out your local cookware shops and specialty food stores for some treasures you are sure to find this holiday season.

❄ A rolling pin, cookie cutters, measuring cups, measuring spoons, zester/grater, and silicone spatula are perfect gifts for the baker on your list.

CANADIAN TIRE PHOTO

❄ Country is a popular decorating style during the holidays, like this Homespun example. Left, ornaments of royal colours are trending this year.

Take a shine to these tree ornament styles

KARL LOHNES
FOR METRO

Each year we see new looks for holiday décor and, often, an evolution from Christmases past. There are three looks that are guaranteed to be included in holiday décor each year: The ever popular Country Style; the illustrious Upscale Look; and the daring Trendy Colours.

Country

This is by far one of the most popular styles of decorating and always the bestseller around the holidays. Last year's country Christmas look was very outdoorsy — birch bark birds, twig nests, pine cones and reindeer motifs were all the rage.

This year, we go inside the house and the look is called Homespun. Knitting, baking and sewing motifs help to define this décor theme: Barbie-sized knit sweaters, scarves and hat ornaments that hang on the tree; decorated gingerbread cookies; textured knit holiday ball ornaments; little quilted gingham house shapes adorned with wooden buttons make for great DIY-er inspired tree ornaments.

Upscale

There is always a formal style of decorating that is popular for the holidays. Last year was the heavily themed Venetian Ball: Party masks, peacocks, jesters and sparkles took the scene. This year we are seeing that look settling down into a simple colour scheme of purple, gold and crystal. Lots of purple hearts, gold harps, over-scaled diamonds and strung crystal ropes.

Isn't it funny that there was a royal wedding this year and, voila!, ornaments of royal colours and diamonds appears!

Trendy

Last year introduced fun Grinch-inspired colours and shapes; wonky-looking lime trees, sparkly turquoise and pink balls and psychedelic striped, curly-toed stockings.

This year, the Grinch colours continue, but are toned down to solid-coloured shapes, polka dots and three colours; lime, turquoise and red. This look would show very well on an all-white tree and adds a retro '60s fun feel to the holidays.

Next year, look for these two colours to darken up significantly.

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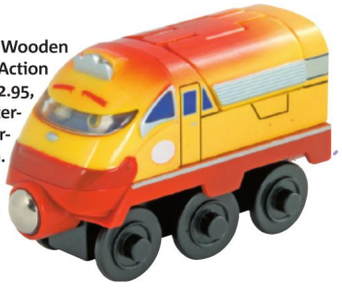

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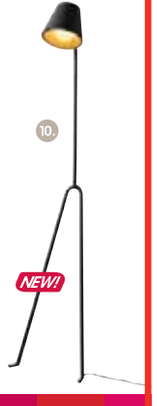

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Synopsis

So many movies were released last weekend for American Thanksgiving that it seems like there weren't any left for this week. With only limited new films in theatres, the Reel Guys take a look at what's at the multiplex already that could take home Oscar gold.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Could Meryl Streep take home another Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher?

Go ask Oscar

Meryl or Michelle, George or Ryan? The Reel Guys make their predictions

Reel Guys
RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
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Richard: Mark, for me right now, the frontrunner for Best Actress is Michelle Williams. Her take on Marilyn Monroe in My Week with Marilyn is so eerily accurate it transcends mimicry. She really becomes Marilyn. I say right now, because The Iron Lady hasn't hit theatres yet. Word is the only way Williams can beat Meryl Streep playing Margaret Thatcher is if Streep decides not to allow herself to be nominated. Are their any surefire bets for you?

MB: Even with Meryl in the race, Williams will win because Hollywood looooooooves Marilyn Monroe, and Thatcher is an unsympathetic figure to a liberal community. I think George Clooney could be a lock for The Descendants. It's the most nuanced work he's ever done, and I think there's a feeling it's time he got that statue for his cumulative body of work. Who else might challenge him?

RC: I think Clooney deserves an Oscar for just being Clooney. He's our generation's Cary Grant and I loved that he didn't rely on his usual charm and likability in The Descendants. But how cool would it be if Ryan Gosling gave him a run. He had a great year with three high profile interesting roles to choose from. Me, I'd give it to him for his brilliant, menacing work in Drive.

MB: Brilliant, yes. But he won't win. The movie will be too violent for older academy voters. But I sense a strong contender from the same movie for Best Supporting Actor: Albert Brooks. I love when comedians play bad guys and Brooks was the most memorable baddie of the year.

RC: I would love Albert Brooks to win simply to hear his acceptance speech. If it's anything like his twitter feed it would be hilarious. I would also love to see Hugo have a shot at Best Picture. It's perfect for the Academy. It's a big beautiful movie about the magic of movies. It would be one for the history books; a kid's flick directed by Martin Scorsese as the year's big winner.

MB: The academy is always biased against kid's pictures even if it's one as magical as Hugo. Maybe it will be one of those instances where it won't win for Best Picture but Scorsese will take home the Best Direction award. Everyone would have to admit the direction was nothing short of ravishing.

2 scene

Scene in brief

Movie website EmpireOnline.com is reporting director Frank Miller's planned remake of Mad Max will be a trilogy. Miller is helming the post-apocalyptic Mad Max: Fury Road, the first in the planned series. "We started with Fury Road, but we then started to do a second story and a third," the website quotes Miller's producing partner Doug Mitchell as saying. The original Mad Max starred a young Mel Gibson and hit theatres in 1979 and also spawned two sequels.

METRO

Hollywood's silent revolution

There's Oscar buzz over a silent movie for the first time since the 1920s Audio changed everything

ANNE BRODIE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Michel Hazanavicius' The Artist is one of the season's most acclaimed films – a silent black and white fable about a movie matinee idol who fails to make the cut to talkies in 1927 Hollywood.

French actor Jean Dujardin won the Best Actor Palme D'or at Cannes for his portrayal of George Valentin, in which he brings the best of Gene Kelly and Cary Grant to his own inimitable style. Valentin, a victim of the sound revolution, loses everything he has, but unbeknownst to him, a young actress he befriended secretly keeps an eye out for him. It's reminiscent of John Gilbert's story.

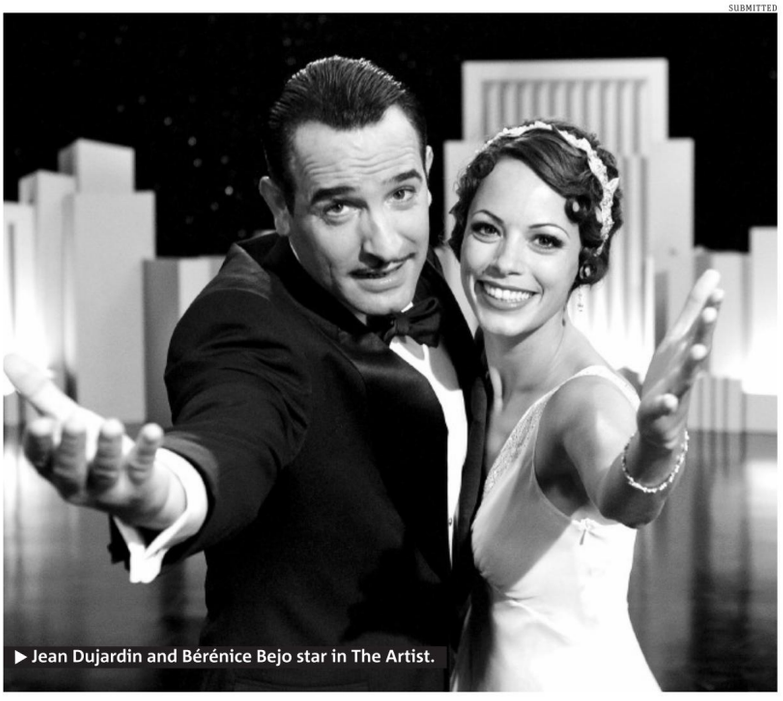
Gilbert was one of the silent era's greatest film stars whose career reportedly collapsed with the advent of sound, and whose former lover, Greta Garbo, intervened unsuccessfully to restore his image and career. He died of a heart attack at age 36. It was a tragedy with parallels to The Artist. In many ways it's a Hollywood fable for adults.

The French cast and crew shot in old Hollywood, often in the exact locations of the story. It looks authentic, as though it was made right then and there in 1927, if not for the modern gloss and crisp, high definition. Dujardin was thrilled to step into Tinseltown's history.

"The story was more beautiful for this. It was thrilling to film in the Orpheum on the actual sites, and was extremely motivating, especially they had talks prior to that that we would be filming in Hungary or Romania. So on top of being able to film in Hollywood, the place is extremely special. It's almost a religion to be in a movie in the street there."

Oscar whispers have been loud and clear since The Artist screened at Cannes and Toronto. Dujardin has heard those whispers and is conscious of the love the film has inspired. "It's almost like Michel found the magical formula access code sitting in front of everyone's nose."

SUBMITTED



▶ Jean Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo star in The Artist.

Finding his balance

Comic Patton Oswalt explores his serious side in Young Adult

Funnyman Patton Oswalt says he dug deep for a serious turn in director Jason Reitman's Up In the Air follow-up Young Adult, spending months with an acting coach to work out the complex emotional baggage of his physically disabled character.

Raves for Oswalt's performance are already pouring in, with the stand-up comic set to be honoured Wednesday with an acting award at the Whistler Film Festival.

Young Adult — which hits theatres Dec. 16 — reunites the Montreal-born Reitman with his Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody, and stars Oscar-winner Charlize Theron as a morally bereft writer of young adult novels.

Oswalt, best known as Spence from The King of Queens, plays a man whose legs were damaged by a brutal high school beating. The self-described acting "neophyte" admits to having had some qualms about the tricky role.

"That's what I was most worried about — that I would kind of fumble some of the transitions between the darkness and then the lightness."
PATTON OSWALT

"Diablo wrote such a good script and such a nuanced script that there were a million ways to steer it in the wrong direction," says Oswalt, whose increasingly diverse credits include HBO Canada's Bored to Death, The Movie Network/Movie Central's United States of Tara and the Adult Swim series The Heart, She Holler.

"Just when I first sat down and read the script I was like, 'Oh boy, I don't want to fumble this.' It's the combination of, 'Oh I'm so thrilled to get offered this,' and 'Oh man, I don't want to mess this up.'"

Oswalt's Matt Freehauf was savagely beaten by jocks as a teen, leaving his legs permanently damaged and forcing him to walk with a brace. Matt serves as a moral compass for Theron's deluded character Mavis Gary, who returns to her hometown looking to relive her glory days and rekindle a romance with her now married ex-boyfriend, played by A Gifted Man's Patrick Wilson.

Oswalt says he consulted an acting coach and a physical therapist to prepare for the role, and thought a lot about Matt's troubled backstory and how that must have shaped his upbringing.

"And not just the incident that scars him but what he went through to recover from it, which I think probably shaped his personality and worldview just as much as the damage that the attack did," Oswalt says by phone from Los Angeles.

"I just wanted less and less to have to think about so I could be more present in the scenes with Charlize.

"She's a really instinctual actor and I really didn't want to be sitting there with eight other thoughts on my head while she's just rolling with it."

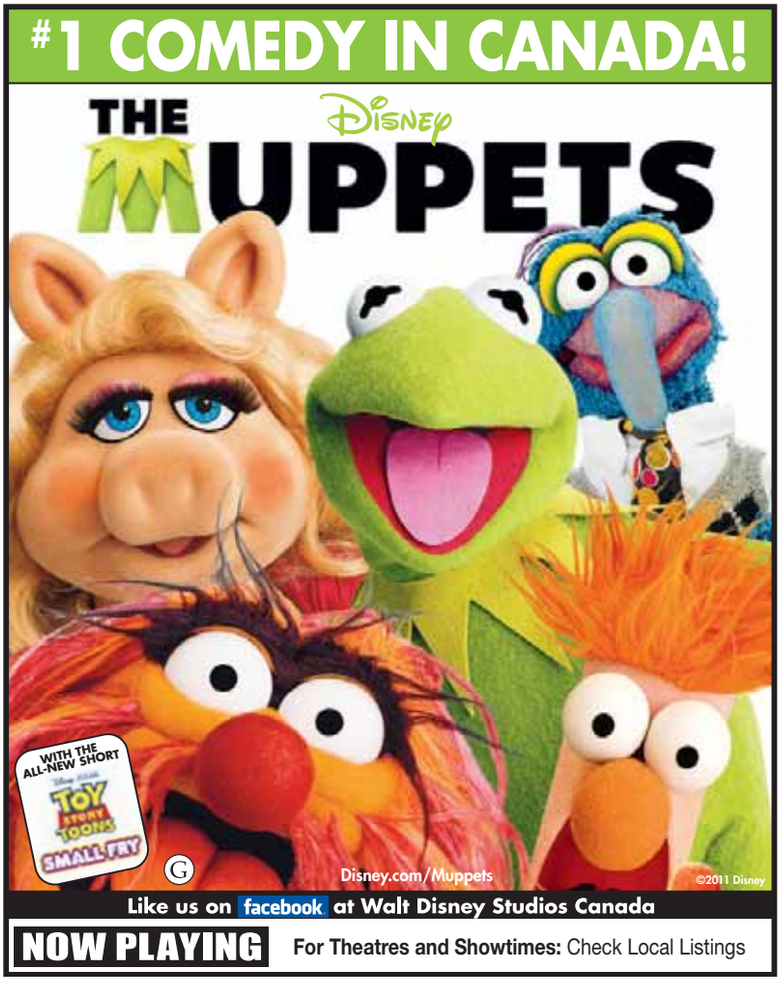
SUBMITTED

▶ Patton Oswalt relished the opportunity to take on a different kind of role.

All that work appears to be paying off.

Several early reviews have singled out Oswalt's performance as a standout, with the Whistler prize seen by some as a precursor to a possible Oscar nomination for supporting actor.

"The whole thing just took me by surprise," Oswalt says of the multiple kudos. "It's extremely gratifying and kind of stupefying at the same time, I don't quite know what to think of it."
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Movie reviews See it twice | See it now | Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother

Surviving Progress
Genre: Documentary
Directors: Mathieu Roy, Harold Crooks
Stars: Stephen Hawking, Jane Goodall, David Suzuki

Adapted from Ronald Wright's bestselling Massey Lecture and featuring an array of spooked talking heads holding forth on the dire state of our globalized society, Surviving Progress is what might be called a big-picture documentary: its subject is the way that the grand advancements of a civilization can also be the seeds of its downfall.

It's heady stuff, and also very talky, which is why the slick, inventive visuals by directors Mathieu Roy and Harold Crooks are so necessary — they keep Surviving Progress from becoming the big-screen equivalent of a book on tape. ADAM NAYMAN

Tomboy
Genre: Drama
Director: Céline Sciamma
Stars: Zoé Héran, Malonn Levana, Jeanne Disson

A 10-year-old is new in town and about to start school. Her hair is short, her clothing is androgynous, and she's hard to pin down, and we feel strangely compelled to pin her down. It comes as a shock to find she is female. When she's mistaken for a boy trying to make new friends, she becomes Michaël and finds a new, truer self. She has a "girlfriend", does "boy" stuff like fighting, and confronts the profound assumptions of gender identity in society, and the difficulty of moving out of one's "assignment." Sciamma has a delicate touch but packs a punch as we witness Laure's struggles to the inevitable conclusion. ANNE BRODIE

Café de Flore
Genre: Drama
Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Stars: Vanessa Paradis, Kevin Parent, Helene Florent

The two stories that make up Café de Flore, the new film from C.R.A.Z.Y. director Jean-Marc Vallée, are bound together by a song called Café de flore, heard in the modern day setting as a dance tune, in the 1960's flashbacks as a cool jazz tune. More importantly, however, is the idea of the uncompromising power of true love that connects the stories of a jet-setting Montreal disc jockey (Kevin Parent) and the single mother (Vanessa Paradis) of a downs syndrome child. The main pleasure here is watching Paradis throw glamour out the window — she is, after all the face of Chanel — and deliver a gritty, but lovingly rendered performance as a protective mother. RICHARD CROUSE

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC.2 TO THURS., DEC. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Arabia (STC) Fri 11-1 Sat-Sun 11-1-3 Mon-Thu 11-1
Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2

DENMAN CINEMAS
1779 Comox, 604-558-3456

Buck (G) Fri-Thu 2:30
The Guard (14A) Fri 9:15 Sun-Wed 9:15
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG) Sat-Sun 12
Le Havre (STC) Fri 4:45 Sun 6:45
The Help (PG) Fri 6:45 Mon-Wed 6:45
Shifter (STC) Sat 7
The Women on the 6th Floor (G) Mon-Thu 12

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:05-4:15-7 Mon-Thu 7
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Café de Flore (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:6:55-9:25
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:05-9:35
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Mon 1-3:45-6:50-9:40 Tue 1-3:45-9:40 Wed 1-3:45-6:50-9:40 Thu 1-3:45-9:40
Like Crazy (PG) Fri-Thu 2:4:45-7:20-9:15
Margin Call (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:30

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Anonymous (PG) Fri 6:35-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:35-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
The Ides of March (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:25-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:15
An Insignificant Harvey (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 4:15-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
Martha Marcy May Marlene (14A) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
Moneyball (PG) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 4-6:30-9:20 Tue-Thu 5:30-8:20
The Skin I Live In (18A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Arthur Christmas (G) Digital Sat-Sun 1:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Digital Fri 7:10-9:35 Digital Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-9:35 Digital Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Puss in Boots (G) Digital Presentation, DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Digital Fri 6:50-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 4-6:50-9:25 Digital Mon-Thu 5-7:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-8

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

14th Annual European Union Film Festival (STC) Fri-Thu

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

The Artist (STC) A.M. Sun 10
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 1:15-4-6:50-9:25 Sat 4-6:50-9:25 Sun-Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Rodelinda - Live (STC) A.M. Sat 9:30

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Die Hard (18A) Fri 12
Surviving Progress (STC) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 4:45-7-9 Mon-Tue 7-9 Wed 6 Thu 7-9 Wed 12

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Hugo (G) Fri-Sun 1 Mon-Thu 1:15
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 1:20-4:30-7:25-10:20 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:20-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-7-9:50
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:25 Sat 2:15-4:50-7:40-10:25 Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:25
In Time (PG) Fri-Sun 4-7:10-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:10-7:10-9:50 Wed 4:10-9:50 Thu 4-9:50
The Muppets (G) Fri 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat 11-12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun 10:15-11-12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:05-4:35-7:40-10:15
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:20-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-5:50-8:10-10:20
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 12:20-2:50-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sat 2:10-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:20-2:50-5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:20-7:55-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:30-2:30-4:15-5:15-7:15-8:10-10:10:45 Sat-Sun 11:45-1:30-2:30-4:15-5:15-7:15-8:10:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:30-2-4:30-5-7:15-7:45-10:10:30
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-6-8:20-10:40 Mon-Tue 1:20-3:40-6-8:15-10:25 Wed 1:20-3:40-10:25 Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:15-10:25
White Christmas (STC) Wed 7

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street,
604-683-Film
vifc.org

Blow-Up (STC) Tue 7:30
El Bulli: Cooking in Progress (G) Fri-Sat 8:15 Sun 6:45 Wed 8:15 Thu 6:30
Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sun 3-5
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Tomboy (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Sun 8:45 Wed 6:30 Thu 8:30

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Happy Feet Two (G) No Passes Fri 7:05-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:05-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 4-7:05-9:40
Hugo (G) Fri 6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:35
Immortals (18A) Fri 7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:10
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 6:50-10
The Muppets (G) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
The Way (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:20

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 1:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 4-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Descendants (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri 6:40-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-6:40-9 Mon-Thu 6:40-9
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat 4:10-7-9:40 Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10 Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

RICHMOND

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way,
604-272-7280

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 12 Mon-Wed 12:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:55-10
Desi Boyz (STC) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:35-7:05-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:05-10:15
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:10-9:05
Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:30
Hugo (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:20 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:20
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:20-10:20
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-6:30
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:25-10:20
In Time (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-10:10
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-10:15
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:20 Wed 12:55-3:50-10 Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:20
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Thu 3:25-9:15
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:10
My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:05-7:35-10:05 Thu 4:05-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-6:55-9:35
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:55
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6-7-7:30-9-10-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6-7-9-9:45-10:15 Wed 12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6-7-9-9:45-10:15 Thu 12:30-1-3:15-3:30-4-6-7-9-9:45-10:15
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 2-5-7:50-10:25 Sat 5-7:50-10:25 Sun 2-5-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:15
White Christmas (STC) Wed 7

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Happy Feet Two (G) Fri 4:45-6:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:45-6:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-6:45
Immortals (18A) Fri-Thu 8:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:20

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 12:15 Sat 2:40 Sun 12:15
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55 Sat 5:05-7:30-9:55 Sun-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sat 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:30
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 Sat 10:50-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri 12:05-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 Sat 2:45-5:30-8:15-11 Sun 12:05-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:30-8:15-11
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 1:15-3:40-6-8:20-10:40 Sat 3:40-6-8:20-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:15-3:40-6-8:20-10:40
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-5-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:20-5-7:40-10:15
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:10-9:30 Sat 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:30 Sun 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:10-9:30
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:30-4:15-7:15-10 Sat 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:15-10 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-10 Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:15-8-10:45
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Anonymous (PG) Fri 4:15-7-9:45 Sat 1:20-4:15-7-9:45 Sun 1:20-4:15-7 Mon-Thu 4:15-7
Footloose (PG) Fri 7:20 Sat 1:30-7:20 Sun 1:30-4:35 Mon-Thu 4:35
In Time (PG) Fri 4:40-7:25-10 Sat 1:35-4:40-7:25-10 Sun 1:35-4:40-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 4:10-7:05-9:55 Sat 1:15-4:10-7:05-9:55 Sun 1:15-4:10-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri 4:25-6:55-9:35 Sat 1:45-4:25-6:55-9:35 Sun 1:45-4:25-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:55
Paranormal Activity 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 4:35-10 Sun-Thu 7:20
Real Steel (PG) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:50 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:50 Sun 1:25-4:20-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15-9:40 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:40 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Tue 1 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 1
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:05-9:50
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:25
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 1-3:45-7-9:40
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:10
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:40-7:45-10:30 Wed 1:25-4:40-10:30 Thu 1:25-4:40-7:45-10:30
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:55-10:10 Mon-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:55-10:10 Thu 12:45-3:40
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:30-10
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:50-9:45
My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri-Tue 1:35-4:05-7:25-9:55 Wed 4:05-7:25-9:55 Thu 1:35-4:05-7:25-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Punch (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:45-9:35
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Wed 1:20-4-6:45-9:15 Thu 1:20-4
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 7:20-10:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:30 Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:20 Sat 4:35-7:40-10:20 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:20
White Christmas (STC) Wed 7

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Real Steel (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Thu 9:25

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey,
604-592-4441

Dolphin Tale (STC) Sat-Sun 12:30-2:35
Footloose (PG) Fri-Thu 4:40
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Sat-Sun 12:45-2:45
Paranormal Activity 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 4:45-9:05
Real Steel (PG) Fri 9:05 Sat-Sun 12:15-9:05 Mon-Thu 9:05
The Rum Diary (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50
The Smurfs (G) Sat-Sun 2:40
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-6:45
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri-Thu 8:45

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 2:35 Sat-Sun 12:05 Mon-Tue 2:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 2:35
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 5:05-7:35-10 Sat-Sun 2:35-5:05-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35-10
Desi Boyz (STC) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
The Dirty Picture (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:30-10:45
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri 2:25-5:10-7:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:25-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:50-10:25
Hero Hitler in Love (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
Hugo (G) Fri 2:15 Sat-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 2:15
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:15
I Am Singh (STC) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Immortals (18A) Fri 5:30-8:10-10:45 Sat-Sun 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10-10:45
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 1-3:20-5:45-8:15-10:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:35 Mon-Thu 1-3:20-5:45-8:15-10:35
The Muppets (G) Fri 2:20-5-7:40-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:20-5-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:20-5-7:40-10:30
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Thu 1:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45 Mon-Tue 2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45 Wed 4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45 Thu 2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 3:25-6:25-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:25-6:25-9:10 Mon 5:05-8:05 Tue 3:25-6:35-9:10 Wed-Thu 5:05-8:05
Desi Boyz (STC) Fri 4:15-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:10-9:55 Mon 4:55-7:55 Tue 4:15-7:10-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:55-7:55
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri 3:50-7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-7:05-9:30 Mon 4:45-7:45 Tue 3:50-7:05-9:30 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:45
Hugo (G) Fri 4:25 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:25 Tue 4:25
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 3:30-6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon 5:10-8:10 Tue 3:30-6:40-9:45 Wed-Thu 5:10-8:10
I Am Singh (STC) Fri-Sun 6:35-9:35 Mon 4:50-7:50 Tue 6:35-9:35 Wed-Thu 4:50-7:50
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Sun 4:15-9:25 Mon 8:15 Tue 4:15-9:25 Wed-Thu 8:15
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri 4:45-7:35-10:10 Sat-Sun 7:35-10:10 Mon 5:40-8:40 Tue 4:45-7:35-10:10 Wed-Thu 5:40-8:40
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 3:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20 Tue 3:20
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:30-7:20-10 Mon 5:30-8:30 Tue 4:30-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 5:30-8:30
Moneyball (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 1:35-6:30 Mon 5:15 Tue 6:30 Wed-Thu 5:15
The Muppets (G) Fri 4-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:20 Mon 5-8 Tue 4-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 5-8
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 4:05 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:05 Tue 4:05
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30-10:15 Mon 5:35-8:35 Tue 7:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 5:35-8:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 3:40-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7-9:40 Mon 5:25-8:25 Tue 3:40-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 5:25-8:25
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri-Sun 7:40-9:50 Mon 5:45-8:45 Tue 7:40-9:50 Wed-Thu 5:45-8:45

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock,
604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

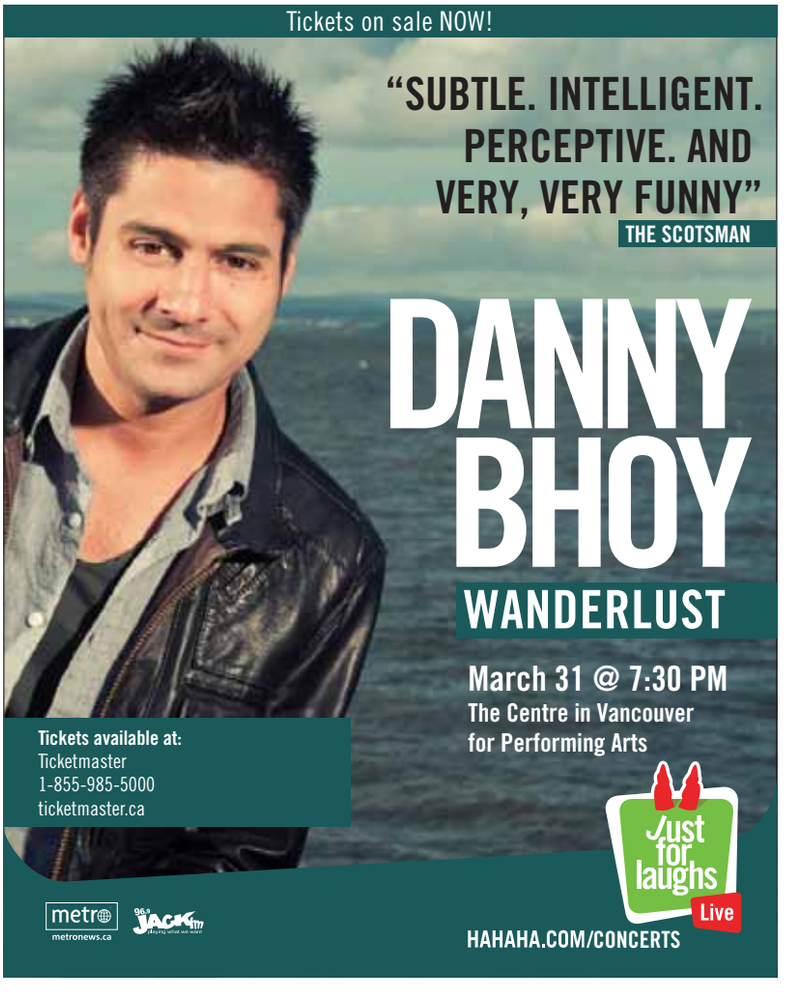
Hugo (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway,
604-531-7456, criteriontheatres.com

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 7:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:20
Happy Feet Two (G) No Passes Fri 7-9 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-7-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9
The Muppets (G) Fri 7:20-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:35 Mon-Tue 3:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3 Thu 3:35
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:05-10:05
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:35-9:35
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30 Mon-Thu 3:30
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:30-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:25-10
Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30
Hugo (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:05 Mon-Thu 4:05
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:40-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:35-10:25
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-6:40 Mon-Thu 6:40
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:35-7:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:40-10:25
In Time (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:55
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Tue 3:55-6:50-9:45 Wed 3:55-9:45 Thu 3:55-6:50-9:45
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Tue 3:40-9:20 Wed 3:40 Thu 3:40-9:20 Wed 9:20
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-1:45-3:55-4:30-6:55-7:20-9:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:55-4:30-6:55-7:20-9:40-10:10
My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:25-7:10-9:50 Wed 7:10-9:50 Thu 4:25-7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:15-10:15
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:25-10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-1:15-3:15-4:15-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10:05-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:15-4:15-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10:05-10:30
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:50-4:45-7:50-10:20 Sat 4:45-7:50-10:20 Sun 1:50-4:45-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:50-10:20
White Christmas (STC) Wed 7



MJ's ex-doc

Murray may be home for Xmas

PRISON OVERCROWDING. Despite being sentenced to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter, Dr. Conrad Murray could be home for Christmas, according to Radar Online.

The disgraced doc was given the maximum sentence for his role in the death of Michael Jackson, but because of overcrowding problems in California prisons, it's expected that Murray will serve out the bulk of his sentence under house arrest.

"Dr. Murray's lawyers are actually relieved that Judge Pastor didn't sentence him to community service, like Lindsay Lohan is doing at the morgue," a source says. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Shooting 30 Rock in 212 today. I'm working the streets again...

@AlecBaldwin

@rosemcgowan

On my way to a wild animal park! Yippee!

@michaelianblack

How am I supposed to work when there's so much internet?

@SarahKSilverman

Let's get into the Christmas Spirit & lie about how we got pregnant.

Is Scarlett still in love with Ryan?

Her post-divorce romance with Sean Penn didn't pan out Now she's apparently got a hate-on for her ex's new squeeze — Blake Lively

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Scarlett Johansson

Even though her marriage to Ryan Reynolds ended last year, Scarlett Johansson is still reportedly preoccupied with his love life — and sources say she absolutely loathes his latest girlfriend, Blake Lively, according to Us Weekly.

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore," a source says. "She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."

Adding insult to injury? The fact that while Johansson's post-divorce romance with Sean Penn fizzled out, Reynolds and Lively seem to be going strong.

"Things are great [for Blake and Ryan]," says the source.

"They haven't had a fight yet." METRO

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore. She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."
SOURCE

Brit to wed?

There's been plenty of speculation about when Britney Spears and Jason Trawick might take the next step toward marriage, and it's reportedly going to be very soon. "They've been talking about marriage for a long time," a source tells People magazine. "It would be surprising if they are not engaged by the end of the year." In fact, the engagement is so close that, according to the source, Trawick has already picked out a ring. METRO

Ashton back into single life

▶ Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher appeared to make the most of his newly single status while home in Iowa for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Us Weekly.

The Two and a Half Men star was spotted with his entourage at several bars around Iowa City over the long weekend.

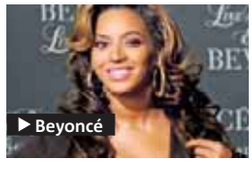
"He was drinking beer, and girls kept coming up to him," says a source of Kutcher's night out on Friday.

"He loved the attention. Girls were hugging him and shaking his hand."

And it continued Saturday, according to another source: "He was swarmed by girls. A few tried to convince him to go to a strip club, but he declined." METRO

"He was drinking beer and girls kept coming up to him. He loved the attention."
SOURCE

Just how old is Beyoncé's bump?



▶ Beyoncé

Though it was previously reported that Beyoncé's baby was due in February, some are speculating that she could actually be giving birth as early as this month, according to Hollyscoop.

A recently released behind-the-scenes video shows Beyoncé referring to herself as six months pregnant — only the video was shot in September. "Right now I'm actually shooting the video for Countdown and I'm six months pregnant, pretending that my stomach is flat in body suits," Beyoncé says in the video. METRO

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Holiday cheer in a bottle

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

While we like to think we watch our weight with Jennifer Hudson precision, as the weeks creep closer to Christmas, the call of an ice cold glass of cream liqueur gets louder.

I like how the creamier side of booze has found a permanent home snuggled up to the holiday season. Typically sweet with a support system of some sort of spirit, it really is the liquid personification of making merry.

I'm betting most of you will think only of Baileys ($26.49 - $30.80) when it comes to a delectable creamer. Famous as it is, the Irish whiskey-based classic has plenty of competition with many modern variations on the theme hitting store shelves.

St-Rémy à la Crème ($26.99 - $28.98) is the newest kid on the rack. Made with a soothing base of French brandy, its snow white creaminess drinks with the silky consistency of vanilla ice cream.

Once opened, a cream liquor will last about two years if refrigerated. That's if the bottle's contents survives until New Year's. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Deck the halls and entertain with ease

Joni Lien and Chris Wood, founders of Ontario-based business SupperWorks, offer their Top 6 tips to make any dinner party jolly

ISTOCK.COM

Above all, remember to enjoy yourself at the party.

The folks at SupperWorks know a thing or two about entertaining. At their 16 Ontario locations they've been taking the "work out of supper" since 2005 by creating delicious recipes, doing the shopping, the washing, the chopping and the clean-up so that customers can prepare delicious, wholesome meals at home without the time and without any hassle. Don't live in Ontario? No worries. SupperWorks delivers right across Canada.

Here are Lien and Wood's tips to make your party a smash.

Plan ahead

Although it may seem obvious, the top entertainment tip for any dinner party is to plan it out. From menu to dinnerware and beverages, planning translates into a successful dinner party.

Check for allergies

Check with your guests in advance to see if they have any food allergies, likes, dislikes or if they are following a particular diet, and adjust your menu accordingly. You may want to offer a vegetarian and a gluten free option.

Be practical

Design your menu around their preferences and your kitchen. A main course and two sides that all require heating in the oven at three different temperatures is not practical if you want to get all three dishes on the table at once.

Stick to what you know

Try not to tackle too many new recipes when entertaining. Stick to what you know and do well. If you do want to serve a new recipe, consider picking up an entrée or sides from somewhere like SupperWorks. SupperWorks entrées serve four to six people and are proven winners when it comes to taste and convenience.

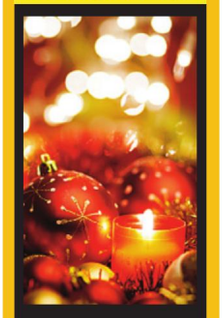
Do what restaurants do

Chill your plates for dishes that will be served cold and heat your plates for dishes that will be served hot. It's a small thing but it makes a big impact. Giving your plates 30 minutes in the fridge before serving keeps your cold dishes cold, and giving your plates five minutes in a 350° oven keeps your hot dishes hot.

Enjoy yourself

Remember that a dinner party is a great time for socializing with friends and family, and enjoying the season. **TO LEARN ABOUT SUPPERWORKS, VISIT SUPPERWORKS.COM**

More great tips



1. Decide on whether your dinner is going to be served "family style" or "plated" and make certain that you have the plates and silverware that will be required.
2. Select dishes that allow you to do as much advance preparation as possible.
3. Set the mood by considering music, lighting and table decor.
4. Be responsible and make sure that your guests drink responsibly.

SUPPERWORKS

JOE HOWELL

This Spiced Berry Holiday Punch is sure to be a hit.

Punch up the party

This festive Spiced Berry Holiday Punch is a great way to get people rockin' around the Christmas tree

Preparation:

1. Combine all the ingredients in a large, fancy bowl, and stir in lots of lemon wheels and fresh cranberries.
2. Add a handful of star anise and a couple of cinnamon sticks, and you're ready to start ladling out this potent potion like you're volunteering in a soup kitchen.

JOE HOWELL, HEAD BARTENDER AT THE SPOKE CLUB (SPOKECLUB.COM)

Ingredients:

- 1 bottle dry red wine
- 750 ml Ocean Spray cranberry juice
- 200 ml pure lemon juice
- 150 ml orange juice
- 150 ml pineapple juice
- 100 ml simple syrup
- 6 oz Sailor Jerry Spiced Navy Rum
- 1 ½ oz. McGuinness Cherry Brandy
- 1 oz. Bottlegreen Spiced Berry Cordial

For great winter-friendly recipes, visit metronews.ca/food or scan this code.

4 sports

Canucks find the right mix

THE HOCKEY NEWS

EDWARD FRASER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A microcosm of the Canucks' November turnaround took place in the first five minutes of their final outing of the month, a spanking of the recently competitive Blue Jackets: The opening goal was a skillful spin and flip by Daniel Sedin after an Alex Edler point shot hit Sedin's skate in front, laying perfectly out of reach of anyone in visitor white. The following shift, Cody Hodgson had a cough-up (one normally reserved for peewee hockey) directly in front of goalie Cory Schneider. The new No. 1 shut the door.

Goaltending. Skill. Luck. It's the mix most teams ride to heights and one the Canucks have rediscovered after a head-scratching start. And don't for a second look back at October and wonder if that Vancouver team will rear its ugly head again. It won't (… at least not until the playoffs, perhaps).

The Hockey News slotted the Canucks at No. 1 in the West for several reasons and those reasons have finally emerged. Plus it only looks to get better.

The return of Mason Raymond, out since last year's playoffs following a scary hit by Bruins defenseman Andrew Ference that resulted in fractured vertebrae, rounds out the top nine. Raymond will surely take time before regaining his very quick stride, both figuratively and literally, but once he does the betting is good the 26-year-old will continue his upward trajectory from the past two seasons — even though the numbers may not pan out that way at first.

The acquisition of David Booth means Raymond will return to third-line left-wing duty and likely a regular spot with Cody Hodgson and Jannik Hansen. The pressure level of playing lower on the depth chart is good news for a player who hasn't played a game in five-plus months, as is the fact his line won't see top trios from opponents.

However, and with all due respect to Raymond, it's the emergence and, perhaps more importantly, the acceptance of Cory Schneider (who I heard a great nickname for this week: 'The C-Wall') that has and will continue to be the key to the Canucks climb. That and the fact the team once again owns the best special teams in the league.

Heading into Thursday's tilt, Vancouver owned the NHL's top power play at 24.8 per cent and sixth best penalty kill at 87.4, a total of 112.2. The next best is the Pittsburgh Penguins at 108.4.

So make that successful mix of goaltending, skill, luck and special teams.

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sami Salo celebrates his goal against the Phoenix Coyotes with teammate Henrik Sedin last week.

Quoted

"I'm very proud of the time that I've spent with the Galaxy and it might continue."

DAVID BECKHAM. THE FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN SAID HE HAS A "BIG DECISION TO MAKE" AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY EXPIRES AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO PLAY FOR THE BRITISH TEAM IN THE LONDON OLYMPICS NEXT YEAR.

Win not enough to save Ducks coach

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ducks fans show their displeasure for head coach Randy Carlyle on Sunday.

The Anaheim Ducks fired coach Randy Carlyle late Wednesday night and hired former Washington coach Bruce Boudreau, who was dismissed by the Capitals just two days earlier.

The Ducks made the abrupt move after beating Montreal 4-1 on Wednesday night for the club's third victory in 19 games, snapping a seven-game skid.

Carlyle coached the Ducks to their only Stanley Cup title in 2007, but struggled to get his talented club's attention this season. Carlyle agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2013-14 season in August, but Anaheim got off to a perplexing 7-13-4 start.

"Randy is a terrific head coach, and did a tremendous job for us for six-plus seasons," Anaheim general manager Bob Murray said. "We thank him greatly for his hard work and dedication to our franchise, not the least of which was a Stanley Cup championship. At this time, we simply felt a new voice was needed. Bruce is a proven winner with a great track record, and we are optimistic we can turn this season around under his leadership."

Carlyle has the most coaching wins in Ducks history, and he was behind Anaheim's bench for many of the 1993 expansion franchise's biggest moments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A B.C. Lions fan works the crowd prior to the start of the CFL 99th Grey Cup last Sunday in Vancouver.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce reflects on last Sunday's Grey Cup loss to the Lions in Vancouver.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ It appears Wally Buono's Grey Cup win will go down as his final game coached.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Steven Jyles will be back with the Argos in 2012.

Gloves already off in CFL off-season

Dan Toth breaks down what to expect from Canadian football in 2012 with an already compelling and controversial off-season underway

CFL EXTRA POINTS

DAN TOTH
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The Canadian Football League's off-season is like a Joe Kapp right cross — unexpected and dramatic, while packing enough punch to knock a veteran to the floor.

The next few months should be filled with staggering developments as all eight teams start juggling their rosters and running coaches out of town. The ultimate goal is to rebuild and make a run at the 100th Grey Cup next November in Toronto. Hamilton head coach Marcel Bellefeuille has already been sent packing, Winnipeg offensive co-ordinator Jamie Barresi has been booted, Calgary defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones has bolted for Toronto and Montreal offensive co-ordinator Scott Milanovich has reunited with Argos GM Jim Barker. Consider the many other possibilities:

Buono steps aside: Newly crowned Grey Cup champ Wally Buono, who earned his fifth ring as a coach in Sunday's win over Winnipeg, has likely coached his last game.

At 61, Buono appears ready to hand the Lions' reins to a successor (possibly defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides) and watch from the press box. Buono's three-year contract expires in 2013, and when he signed the current deal he made it clear that he would not necessarily perform both roles for the duration of the contract.

Bombers look to strike first with Pierce: Winnipeg Blue Bombers GM Joe Mack will have his hands full this off-season with about a dozen unsigned free agents, including D-lineman Doug Brown who is expected to retire.

On top of Mack's list is quarterback Buck Pierce, who proved his mettle by avoiding injuries to get his club to the Grey Cup game. Mack also has to be concerned with fielding a team that can fill the new 33,000-seat Winnipeg Stadium that opens in 2012.

Riders' top coaching choice already spoken for: Kent Austin tops the Christmas Wish List of most Saskatchewan Roughriders fans, but he's unlikely to accept the head coaching job in Regina.

Now head coach at Cornell University, Austin won a Grey Cup with the Riders in 2007 but finds himself a candidate for a head job with a top college and eventually the NFL. Having Austin back in Regina is a romantic notion for the Riders faithful, but he's a longshot to return. GM Brendan Taman is more likely to offer the job to Calgary OC Dave Dickenson, but is Dickenson keen on the Queen City?

Milanovich jumps to Argos' ship: Has Scott Milanovich lost his mind? Yes, the Montreal Alouettes 2011 offensive coordinator, who took over Toronto's head coaching position Thursday, is old pals with Argos GM Jim Barker. But Toronto? Talk about going from the penthouse to the outhouse with one stroke of a pen. Making matters worse, Barker has already re-signed QB Steven Jyles, who can't possibly be the starting quarterback next season.

Burris has suitors in Southern Ontario: Henry Burris, the CFL's Most Outstanding Player in 2010, could have options when it comes to finding a new team next season.

The obvious choice is Toronto, which needs a veteran quarterback like Angelo Mosca needs a good corner man. But Hamilton might also be in the market for a top pivot. Starter Kevin Glenn has been a disappointment in his three seasons in black and gold, even though he guided his team past Montreal in the East semifinal.

McNabb cut loose by Vikings

Donovan McNabb is available again.

The Minnesota Vikings waived the 13-year veteran quarterback Thursday, giving him the opportunity to sign with another team for the stretch run in a parting coach Leslie Frazier described as mutual.

Frazier pushed for the Vikings to trade a sixth-round draft pick this summer to the Washington Redskins in exchange for McNabb. He wanted stability he believed McNabb would bring to the offence after the NFL lockout kept rookie Christian Ponder from practising with the team or working with his coaches until training camp.

Frazier and McNabb met in 1999, when the defensive backs coach and the first-round draft pick spent their first year with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"This was the best decision for both parties," Frazier said. "He was a great player and has been a great player for our league for a long, long time. Have a lot of affection and love for Donovan."

McNabb went 1-5 as a starter, threw for only four touchdowns and completed just five passes of 25-plus yards. Frazier said he didn't regret the trade given the situation the Vikings were in this summer, and said he believes McNabb can still play in the NFL but stopped short of saying he can be an effective starter.

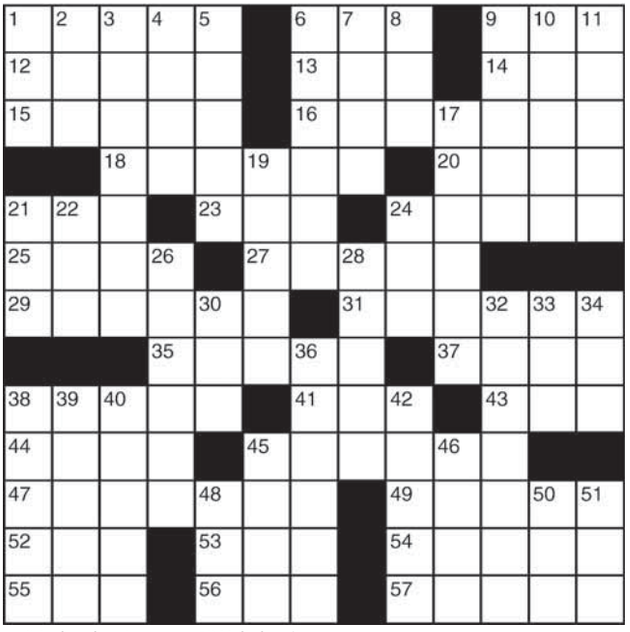
"I'm not certain about that. ... A lot depends on the team he goes to, if he goes to another team," Frazier said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Donovan McNabb

Crossword



Across

1 Recordings
6 Big bother
9 Scale notes
12 Sudden gush
13 Rawls or Reed
14 Exist
15 Places in the heart
16 Range of understanding
18 Basement
20 Sea eagle
21 Handle
23 Fond du —, Wis.
24 The staff of life
25 Auctioneer's cry
27 Foundation
29 Claim
31 "Rug"
35 Hay machine
37 Wrestling style
38 Separated
41 Angry
43 Scoot
44 Japanese rice wine (Var.)
45 Former Secretary of State
47 Chase
49 Crosses
52 UN workers grp.
53 Retainer
54 Wedding VIP
55 Has the skills
56 Peculiar
57 Busybody

Down

1 Airport org.
2 Suitable
3 17th-century composer Henry
4 Great Lake
5 Play for time
6 Andean beast
7 Gloomy
8 Lord's Prayer opener
9 Word with savoir or laissez
10 Sports venue
11 Emulated Betsy Ross
17 Opposing
19 Tag
21 "Born in the —"
22 The Sun
24 Resume, for short
26 Scattered fragments
28 Malt shop item
30 Roscoe
32 Steal
33 Ostrich's kin
34 A billion years
36 Overacted
38 Jellied entree
39 TV cook Deen
40 Ohio city
42 Bowler
45 Multicolored
46 Traditional tales
48 Venusian vessel?
50 Potent pesticide
51 Vast expanse

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	P	A	R		M	A	Y		H	A	N	G
T	I	L	E		O	N	O		O	R	A	L
A	T	O	P		N	A	G		O	G	R	E
G	A	T	E	A	U		A	D	D	U	C	E
			A	T	M			D	O	M		
W	A	T	T		E	N	D	T	O	E	N	D
A	L	E			N	E	O			N	O	I
G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C		S	T	D	S
			U	S	O			U	S	E		
T	A	M	I	N	G		M	O	R	R	I	S
U	V	E	A		A	P	E		E	A	S	E
B	O	N	N		L	A	N		N	I	L	E
A	N	T	S		E	S	T		E	D	E	N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Some extraordinary things will happen over the next few days. Whether they're good or bad is up to you.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't be afraid to put your own needs first today because they will benefit many other people as well.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you take too many risks, your chances of coming through unscathed will be on the low side.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be a lot more flexible if you want to take advantage of the opportunities that are now coming your way.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 It may be the case that something has not worked out to your full satisfaction but it's really no big deal.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus indicates health, wealth and happiness. Share the lucky streak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Life is going to get tougher over the next few days, but that's OK because you need to be challenged.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Today's Sun-Mars link will make it easy to get angry but, really, what's the point? Let it all wash over you.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Today's Sun-Mars union could bring you up against someone who is as domineering as you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You seem to be in a bit of a fix at the moment with no obvious way out. Sit tight for the time being.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you don't listen to a loved one's advice today, the results could be traumatic. You don't know it all!

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. There's no point in getting angry or upset today. Try laughing instead. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

8			9		1			
6	1						7	3
	5			4		6		
	9		8	5				7
		3				1		
4				3	9		8	
		9		2			3	
3	2						6	5
			7		3			2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	3	6	8	2	4	5	1	7
7	4	8	9	1	5	6	3	2
2	1	5	7	6	3	9	8	4
5	7	4	3	8	2	1	6	9
3	6	2	1	7	9	8	4	5
1	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	3
6	9	3	2	5	1	4	7	8
8	5	1	4	3	7	2	9	6
4	2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Cute Stats,
All semester the only reason to come to class has been your beautiful face. I've seen you reading the metro some classes. Try looking back on Friday ;) **DELISH STRANGER**

Jon,
<3 my partner in crime **JENNA**

BlueJae
hey i just wanted to let you know how pretty you are,school wouldn't be the same without you, every day on my way to school i hope I'm on the same bus so i can sit beside you, also i wanted to tell you i had a lot of fun watching twilight with you on Saturday- if we're reading this together like we do then i think this is where we kiss, so just close your eyes and lean in babe ;) **DECKS**

KOJI SASAHARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

PETER DEJONG/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Cape Elizabeth, Maine – It's 360 degrees of fun and adventure in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. With tons of cargo space and best-in-class fuel efficiency, it's all doing and less fueling for this family.

1. Added boat in the water above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2. Changed front wheel reflector on bicycle to orange 3. Removed support bar above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 4. Removed seat reflector on bicycle 5. Added stripe to purple helmet 6. Changed colour of flowers behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 7. Removed lug nut cover on rear tire of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 8. Changed colour of bag in the trunk of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 9. Moved the position of the white boat 10. Removed tint from the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox window

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